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暮石ヤコ
Gureishi Yako
ソマリと森の神様
Somali and the Forest Spirit
ZENON COMICS

ソマリと森の神様 1

Somali and the Forest Spirit

暮石ヤコ

Gureishi Yako

C O N T E N T S

第1話 003 ネコもどきと大きな街

第2話 041 サカナと川のほとり

第3話 063 森の人 前篇

第4話 087 森の人 後篇

第5話 115 くさびらと鬼の住処

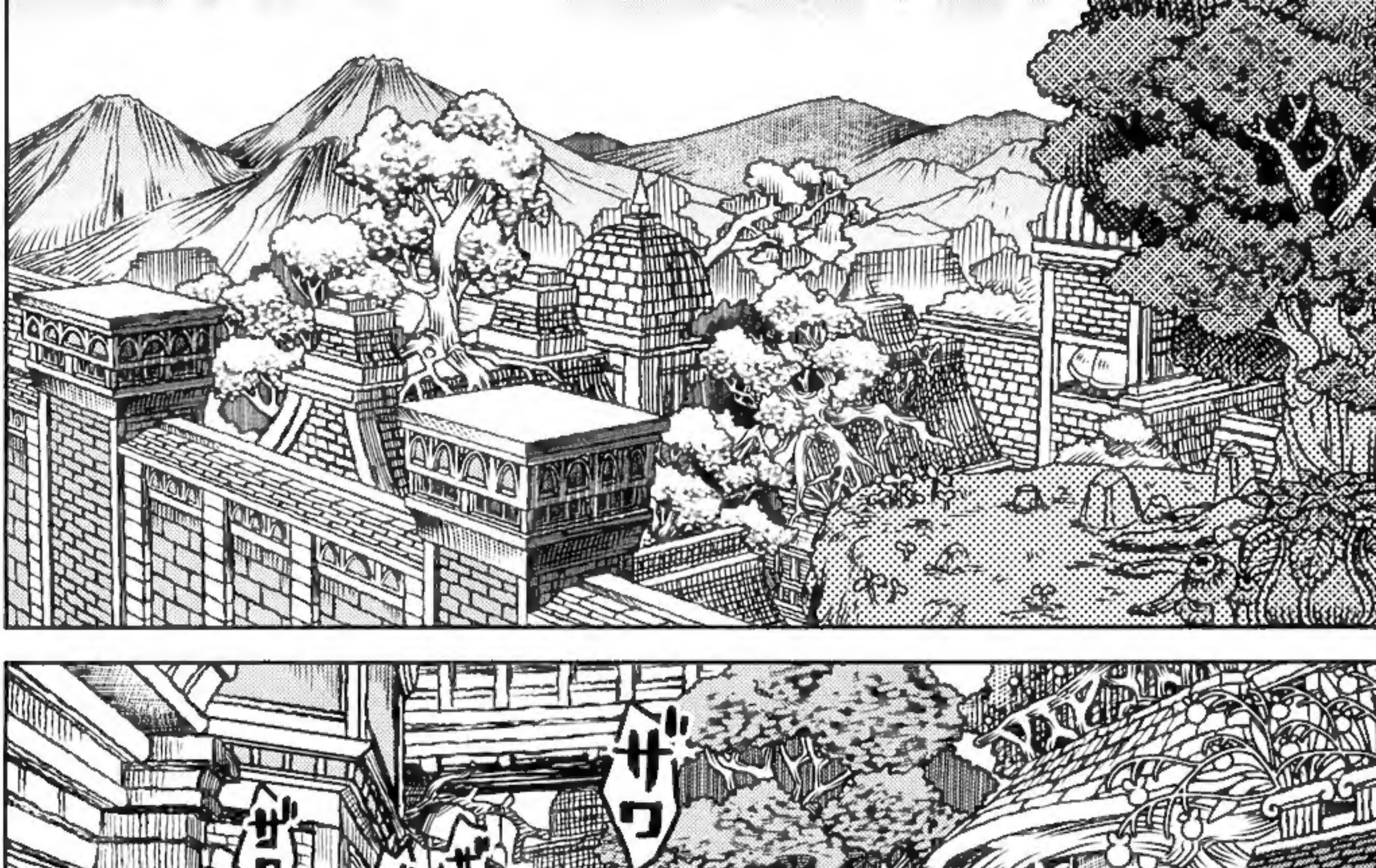
第6話 147 魔女の村

IT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST WHERE I HAPPENED UPON "IT".

CHAPTER 1: THE CAT-LIKE CREATURE AND THE LARGE TOWN.

A HUMAN WHICH CALLED ME, A GOLEM, FATHER.

FATHER!



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A...
A TRAVELLER? SOMETHING LIKE A TRAVELLER ISN'T ALL THAT STRANGE.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF TRAVELLER HAS ARRIVED.

HEY.
SAY, WHAT ON EARTH'S THE UPROAR ABOUT?

IS THE GUY'S BREED...

WHAT'S UNUSUAL...

NO...

THIS ONE IS REALLY UNUSUAL.

WHAT'S MORE THEY'VE A CHILD WITH THEM!

THEY'RE A GOLEM! A GOLEM!

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING ONE.

IS THAT THE REAL DEAL?

LOOK, IT'S OVER THERE!

HURRY, HURRY!

...?

IT REALLY IS A GOLEM!

WAH, AMAZING!

MMM.

IN FACT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN ONE!

YEP!

...

ARE GOLEMS A RARITY IN THIS REGION THEN?

KEEPING THAT IN MIND, YOU CAN SEE WHY THIS IS AN AMAZING EVENT.

ALSO, LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE FOREST. SO THERE'S MANY CURIOUS PEOPLE HERE.

THERE'S FEW OUTSIDE OF THE REGION EITHER.

THAT YOU ARE HERE NOW...

IS NO BAD THING, YET IT IS STRANGE.

I WILL PROTECT THE "SANCTITY OF THE FOREST", LIKE THE WATCHMEN OF LEGEND.

THE PURPOSE OF MY EXISTENCE IS TO PROTECT THE FOREST, TO ACT AS A WATCHMAN.

IN PARTICULAR, I AM A GOLEM, A SPECIAL SORT OF WATCHMAN.

SOMALI...

WHAT'S YOUR NAME LITTLE MISS?

WHAT'S MORE, YOU BROUGHT A CHILD ALONG.

BY THE WAY MR. TRAVEL-LER...

RIGHT...

THAT'S ENOUGH EVERYONE.

THEY'RE A MINO-TAUR.

AH.

THAT'S A CUTE NAME.

WHAT SPECIES IS THIS CHILD?

...

FOOD?!

HERE'S YOUR MEAL, THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

FOOD...

ゴ

HERE, A LANTERN FISH AND RICE BUNDLE.

FUFU.

I'LL BRING IT OUT NOW.

SERVICE?

DRINK SERVICE IS HERE.

...

FOOD?

FOOD.

FOOD.

FOOD.

ALL MANNER OF CURIOUS ONLOOKERS HAVE COME IN DUE TO OUR GUESTS.

SO LONG AS THEY MERELY WATCH IT'S FINE, IF THEY TRY DO ANYTHING THOUGH...!

THANKS TO THEM WE'RE DOING GREAT BUSINESS.

TOAD-MA'S SHREWD ISN'T SHE!

I CAME ALONG AS THE GOLEM'S HERE.

ぅ……

…

YOU LOT ARE TOO LOUD!

…

OOH, THIS IS SCARY, SCARY.

…

DON'T LEAVE ANY.

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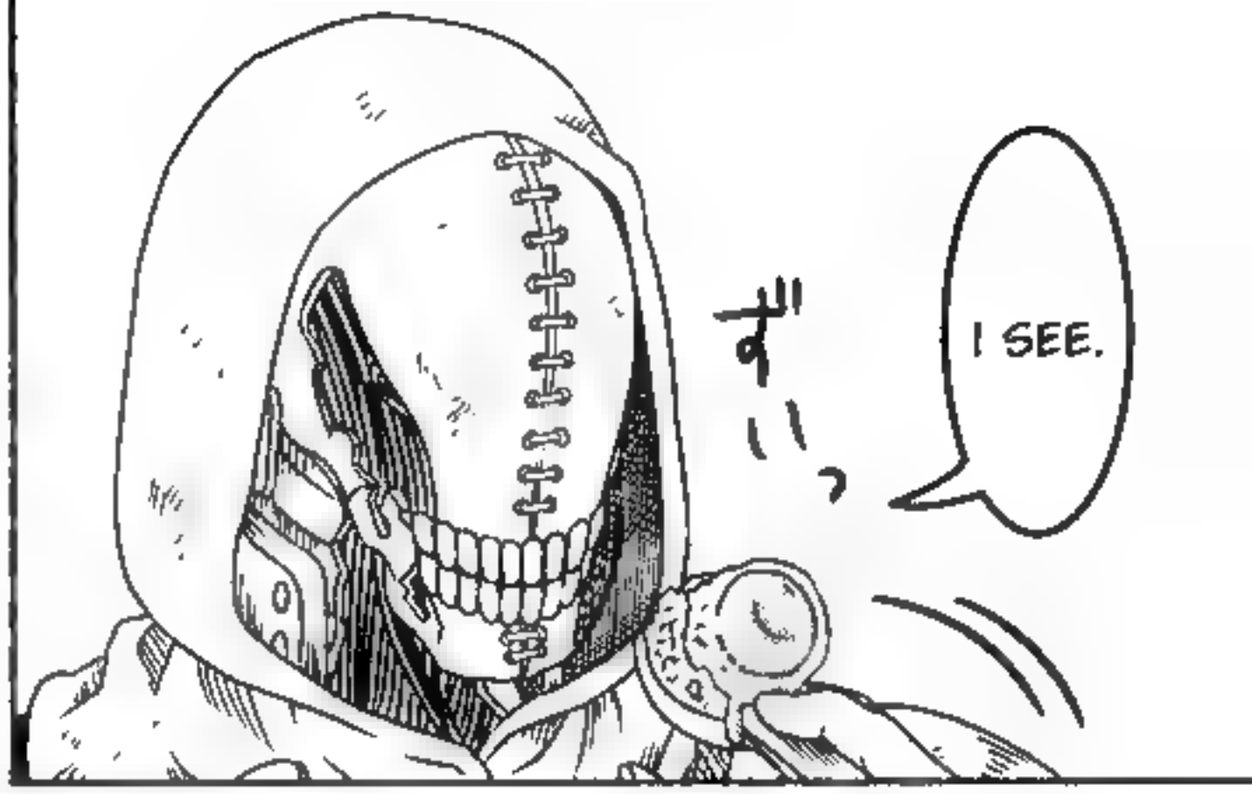
WAS IT TASTY?

IT WAS!

YOU WOULDN'T COME HERE AND NOT HAVE ANYTHING WOULD YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.


I SEE.

IT'S GOOD.
HAVE SOME.

AAH. SO THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T ORDER ANYTHING.
HMMM.

I DON'T NEED FOOD AND DRINK.
ALL I NEED TO BE ABLE TO MOVE IS OXYGEN, SUNGLIGHT AND WATER.

...

WHAT MADE YOU COME HERE, MR. TRAVELLER?

BY THE WAY...

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HUMANS.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HUMANS...

THAT'S OUR REASON FOR TAKING THIS TRIP.

...EH?

HUH?
AH...
YOU SEE ANY HUMANS?
BUT...
RIGHT, I SEE...
HAVE I?
SAY.
TOAD-MA, HAVE YOU?
INDEED.
RECENTLY I'VE NOT SEEN ANY AROUND AT ALL.
...
THEY WERE TOO THIN AND TASTED TERRIBLE.
A LITTLE WHILE AGO THERE WERE SOME HERE...
WE TRIED EATING THEM BUT...

FROM THAT TIME...

AAH.

DIDN'T THEIR NUMBERS GREATLY DWINDLE DURING THE LAST WAR?

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR HUMANS.

WHAT, WHAT, WHAT DID YOU SAY?

PEACE IS THE BEST, AFTER ALL.

GOOD GRIEF... WHO'D PREFER SOMETHING LIKE WAR ANYWAY.

WE'VE NEEDED SOME MUSTARD FOR A WHILE NOW.

YES, YES.

RIGHT.

THEY WERE ALSO USED AS PETS.

A WHILE BACK THINGS LIKE "HUMAN HUNTS" WERE IN FASHION WEREN'T THEY.

BUT...

AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, THEY'RE ALREADY GONE.

NOW THERE'S ONLY US NON-HUMAN CREATURES.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OH, YOU'RE LOOKING TO LEAVE ALREADY?

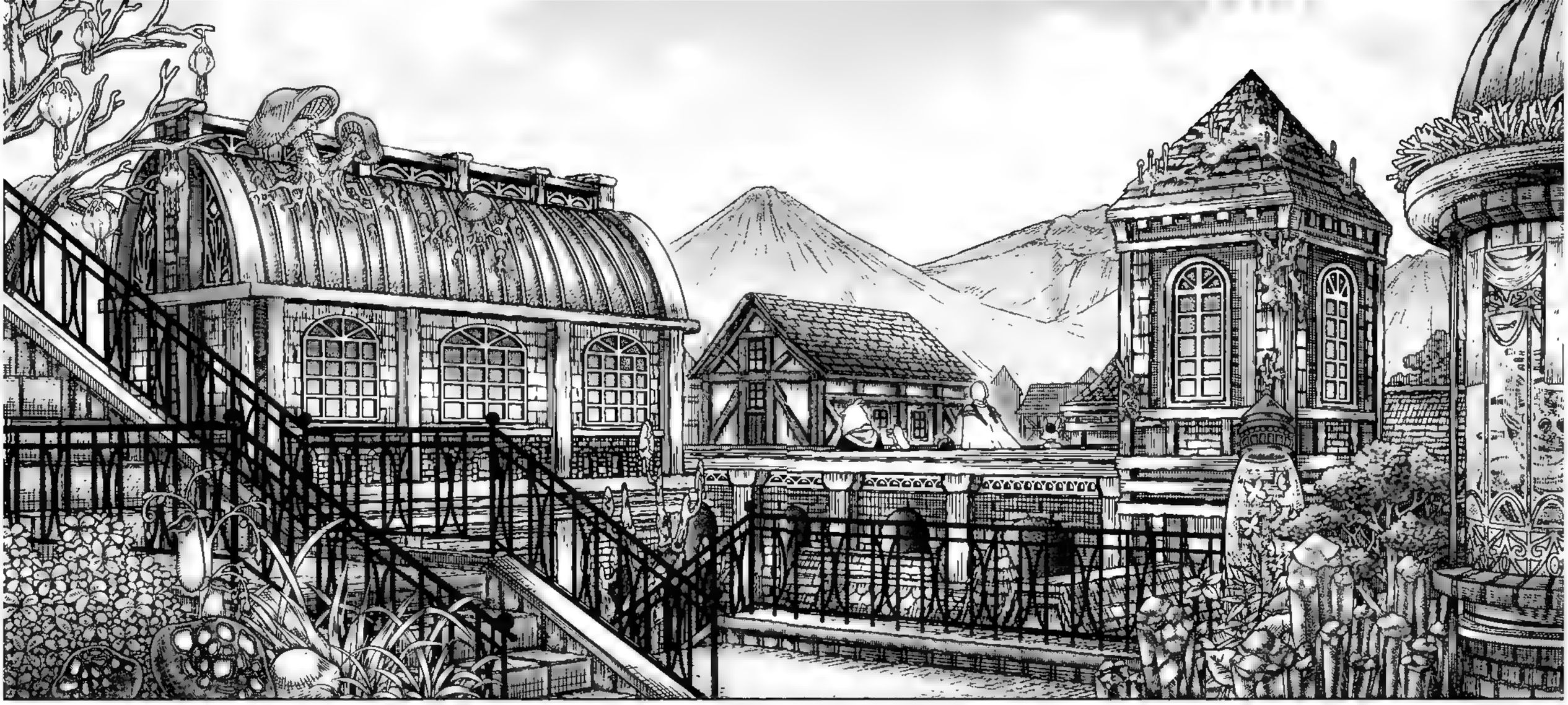
AAH, WE'VE FINISHED OUR TASK HERE.

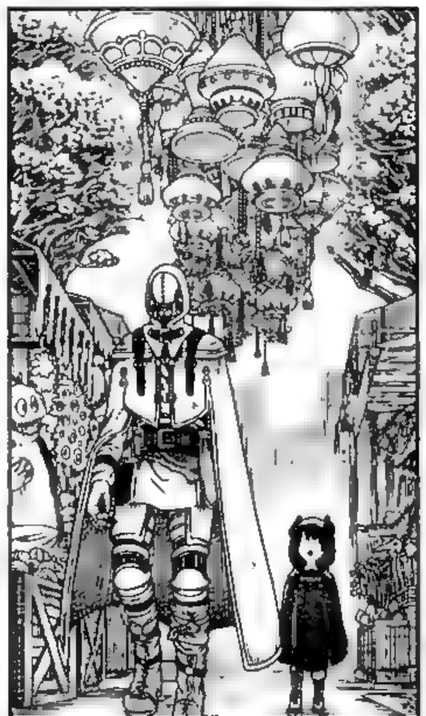
WE'VE GOT TO GO SHOPPING FOR CONSUMABLE GOODS.

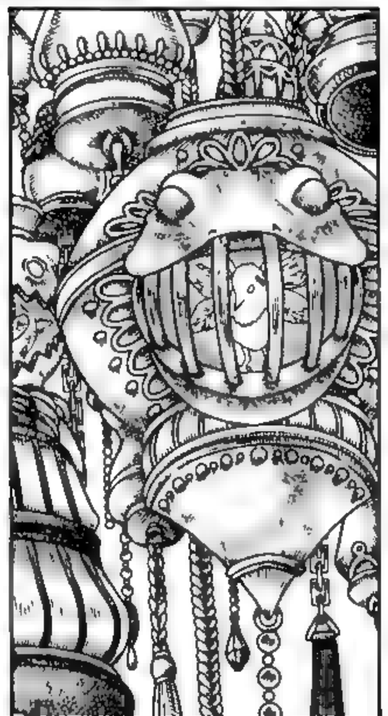
WHERE ARE WE HEADING NEXT?

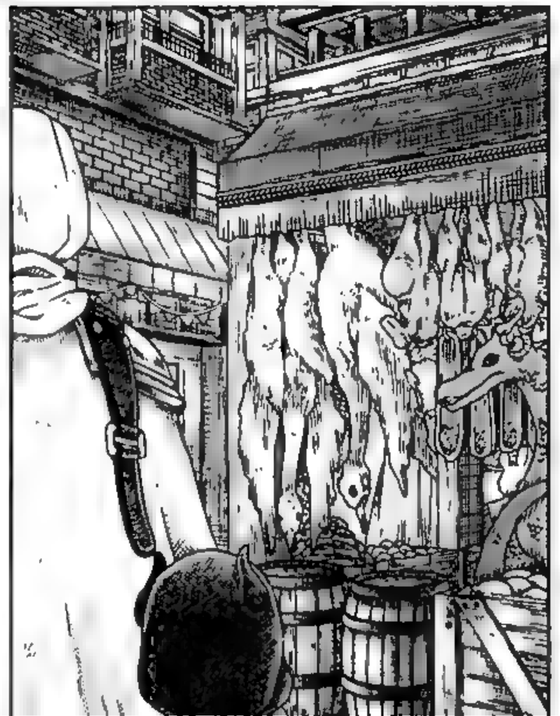
UH HUH.

IF YOU RUN YOU'LL FALL OVER.









...

HEY.

THAT'S FAR TOO LOW A PRICE!

THIS SORT OF PRICE IS PERFECTLY REASONABLE.

AROUND HERE THESE STONES AREN'T THAT RARE.

HEH.

BUT MY GOOD SIR...

BEFORE COMING TO THIS REGION IT WAS DOUBLE THAT.

I HAVE TO COVER TRAVEL EXPENSES.

SO I NEED AN AMOUNT SUITABLE FOR THAT.

HAHA.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT MISTAKING IT FOR SOME OTHER TYPE?

THAT WON'T DO.

I SAW OTHER STORES WHICH WOULD HAVE PURCHASED IT FOR A HIGHER PRICE.

...

I'VE ALREADY SAID MY LOT.

AH!

HOLD ON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING...

?

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

EH?

IT'S A FAKE.

TOUCHING A VALUABLE JEM LIKE THAT WITH YOUR BARE HANDS....

AN EYE?!

GOOD... GOOD SIR, PLEASE BE REASONABLE.

I'M SAYING THAT THIS STONE IS A FORGERY.

INCIDEN-TALLY...

ALL THINGS ARE COMPOSED OF A VARIETY OF SUBSTANCES. MY "EYE" ALLOWS ME TO DISCERN AND UNDERSTAND THIS.

GOLEM.

WHAT IS YOUR BASIS FOR SAYING THAT...

HU... HUUH?

NUU...

IF THIS WERE THE REAL DEAL THEN MATERIALS LIKE SAND AND DUST WOULD BE ATTACHED TO 30% OF THE SURFACE... THIS ONE IS ALSO SECONDHAND.

GRR.

WHAT YOU CALL A PRECIOUS STONE IS MOSTLY MADE OF GLASS.

ARGH.

THE METAL SECTION OF THESE DISPLAYED ORNAMENTS SHOULD BE PURE GOLD BUT 98% IS COPPER, WHILE THE REMAINING 2% IS A GOLD COLOURED SURFACE SPRAY.

GAAAAAH!

80% OF THE GOODS IN THIS STORE ARE FAKE...

NOW, ARE YOU ABLE TO GUESS WHAT I'M THINKING, SHOPKEEPER?

とっ

SO SLOW.

RIGHT, HERE.

ヤラッ

SO LONG.

YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME AGAIN.

スッ

ううううううう

I'LL CERTAINLY ACCEPT THAT.

HMPH.

JUST TAKE IT AND GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY!

SOMALI?

MM?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HEY.

IT'S A CAT.

WHY ARE YOU SO DISSAPOINTED AT THAT...

I'M NOT A CAT.

I WAS WRONG.

HAH?

はぁぁぁぁ…

...

SO, WHAT ARE YOU?

A LOST CHILD?

I'M NOT A LOST CHILD.

NO, I WAS JUST A LITTLE UNSTEADY ON MY FEET.

YOU'RE LOST, AREN'T YOU?

HUH?

ARGH, THAT'S NOT GOOD!

!?

WELL IT SHOULD BE ALRIGHT...

TO STROKE YOU.

AHH...

LIKE THAT...

HOW'S THAT?

AAH...

WHEN I SMELL YOU, IT'S ODD.

YOU HAVE AN ODD ODOUR, DON'T YOU?

IT'S ODD?

IT'S A DELICIOUS SORT OF ODOUR.

EH ?

WHO ARE YOU?
THEIR GUARDIAN?
...

OH...?

HA...

WH... WHAT?

...

LEAVE.

GOOD GRIEF.

...?

I'M GOING.

IT'S... IT'S FINE I'M GOING.

IF I HADN'T HAVE NOTICED, YOU'D HAVE BEEN IN DANGER.

FROM NOW ON DON'T SIMPLY GO OFF ON YOUR OWN.

DEARIE ME...

THANK GOODNESS I MADE IT IN TIME.

I WON'T, WHEN THE TIME AND SITUATION ALLOW FOR IT.

...

ヒョイッ

?

IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN.

I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THE LOCALS.

IF YOU HOLD ONTO MY HAND THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN.

OH...

HERE.

LIKE... THIS?

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THE WHOLE HAND, A SINGLE FINGER IS FINE.

HOLD ON WITH ONLY ONE HAND.

LIKE THIS?

LIKE THIS?

IF HOLDING MY HAND IS NO GOOD...

SOMETHING LIKE REINS OR A COLLAR WOULD ALSO WORK.

...

?

WHAT IS IT?

BUT...

LIKE IT THIS WAY.

I...

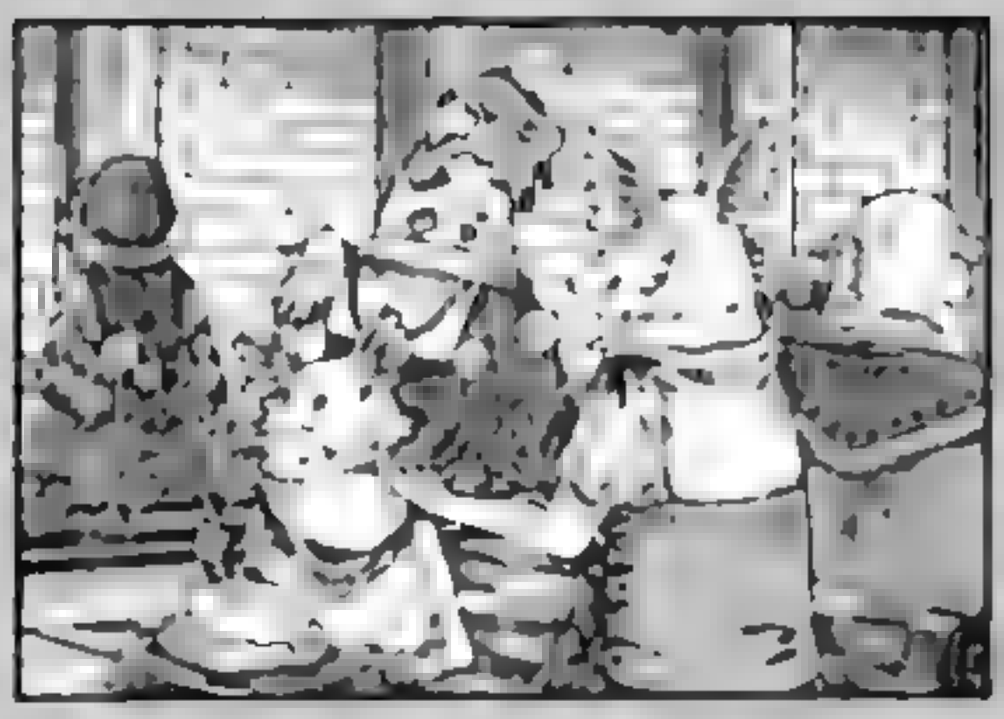
...

AAH.

IS THAT...

SO?

CHAPTER 1 END



JUST NOW I MET WITH THAT GOLEM MENTIONED IN THE RUMOURS
THEY'RE A REAAALLY SCARY GUY.
LISTEN TO THIS.

HOW COME YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH?
WELCOME MR. FALSE-CAT.

OH.
EEEH.

YOU ALWAYS ACT LIKE A CHILD AND CLING TO GIRLS, DON'T YOU.

YOU USED YOUR LEER ON THE CHILD AND ANGERERED THE GOLEM RIGHT.
WAS THE CHILD WITH THEM?

SIDE STORY

THAT'S REALLY NOT THE CASE!

SO, AS I SAID, YOU MADE USE OF YOUR LEER.

YOU SAY THAT, AND YET THE GOLEM WAS ANGERED...

THAT CHILD DID GIVE OFF A PLEASANT ODOUR THOUGH.

NOT TODAY!

DON'T HOLD BACK, EAT UP!

MY TREAT.

EH? I DIDN'T MAKE AN ORDER.

HERE.

スコーン

ARGH!

THAT ONE NEVER LEARNS.

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!

ぱぁぁぁ

TOAD MAAAAA!

TOAD... TOAD-MA...

Somali and the Forest Spirit

CHAPTER 2: FISH AND THE RIVER BANK

I CAUGHT ONE!

WOULD YOU LIKE A SUGAR LUMP?

THREE!

OH!

IF YOU SHAKE THE STONES WHILE THEY'RE SHINING, YOU CAN LIGHT A FIRE.

WELL THEN...

LET'S EAT!

EAT A LITTLE MORE CALMLY...

MM.

BUT...

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AREN'T YOU IN A GOOD MOOD, FATHER?

I WOULDN'T KNOW. I CAN'T COMPRE-HEND THAT.

?

IF THE FOOD'S TASTY YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE EXCITED!

HAS NO MEANING TO ME.

SUCH BEHAVIOUR...

THAT IS...

A CALAMITY.

THAT'S A RATHER GRANDIOSE EVALUATION.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, YOU'RE HOPELESS FATHER.

BUT FOOD IS SO TASTY AND NICE.

FOR ONE THING, I HAVE NO SENSE OF TASTE.

SO IT CAN'T PUT ME "IN A GOOD MOOD".

SO...?

FROM THE START I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT WATER ANYWAY.

LEAVING IT LIKE THAT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR THE TRIP.

SOMALI.

THE HORN ON YOUR HOOD IS COMING OFF.

MM?

GOT IT.

HERE.

MM.

IS THAT OKAY?

YOUR HOOD NEEDS TO BE FIXED.

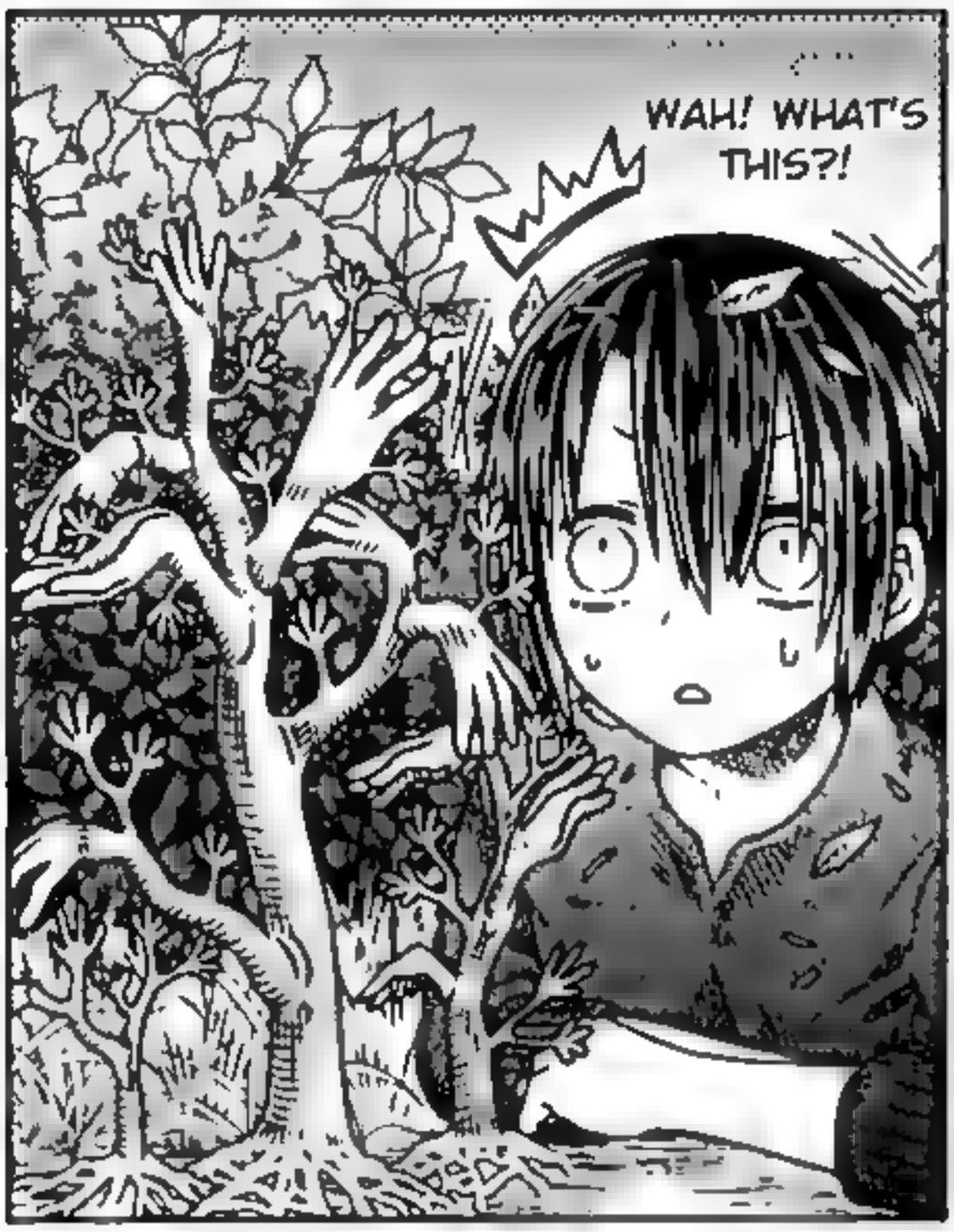
TAKE IT OFF.

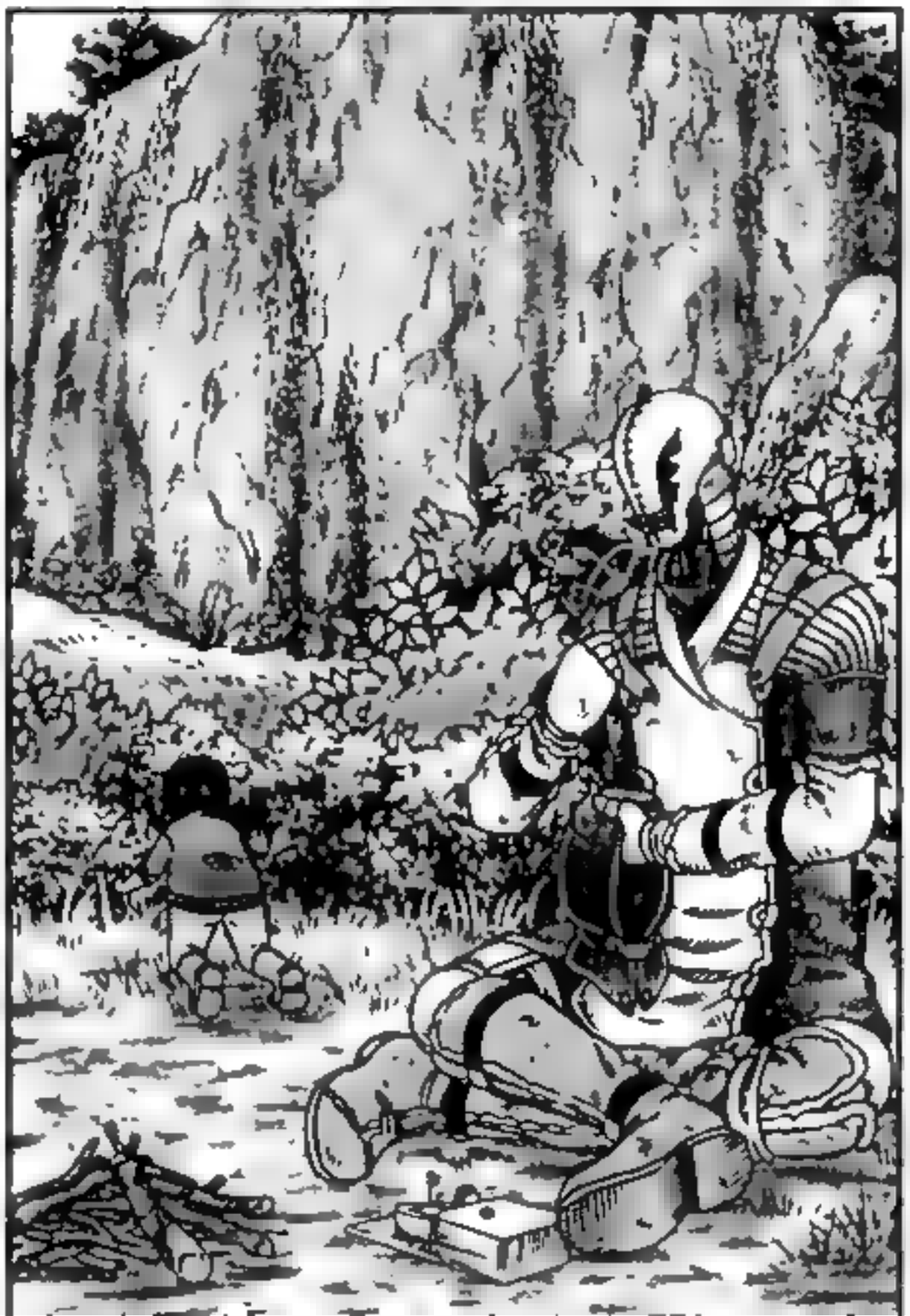
WE'RE OUTSIDE, SO IT'S NOT LIKELY THAT THERE'LL BE ANY NON-HUMANS AROUND.

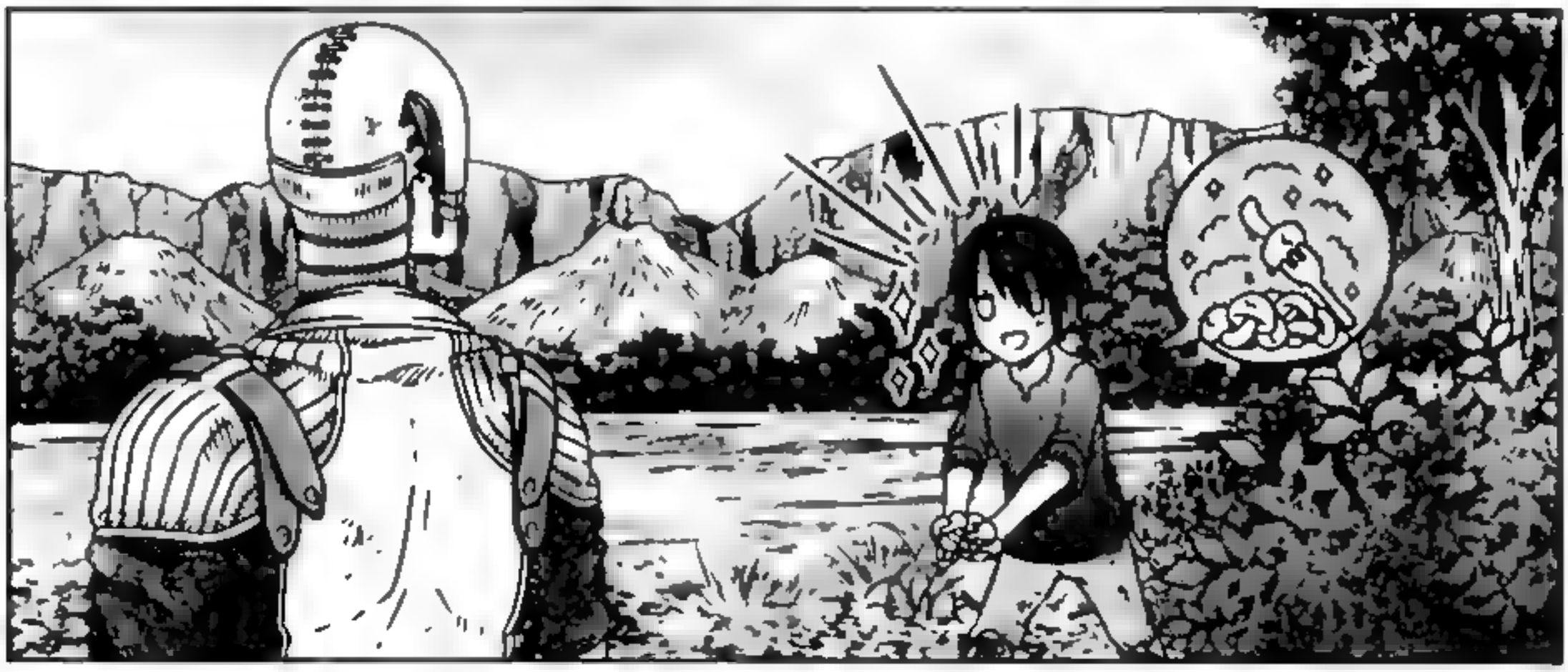
IT'S BETTER TO DO IT HERE, THAN RISK BEING FOUND OUT IN A TOWN.

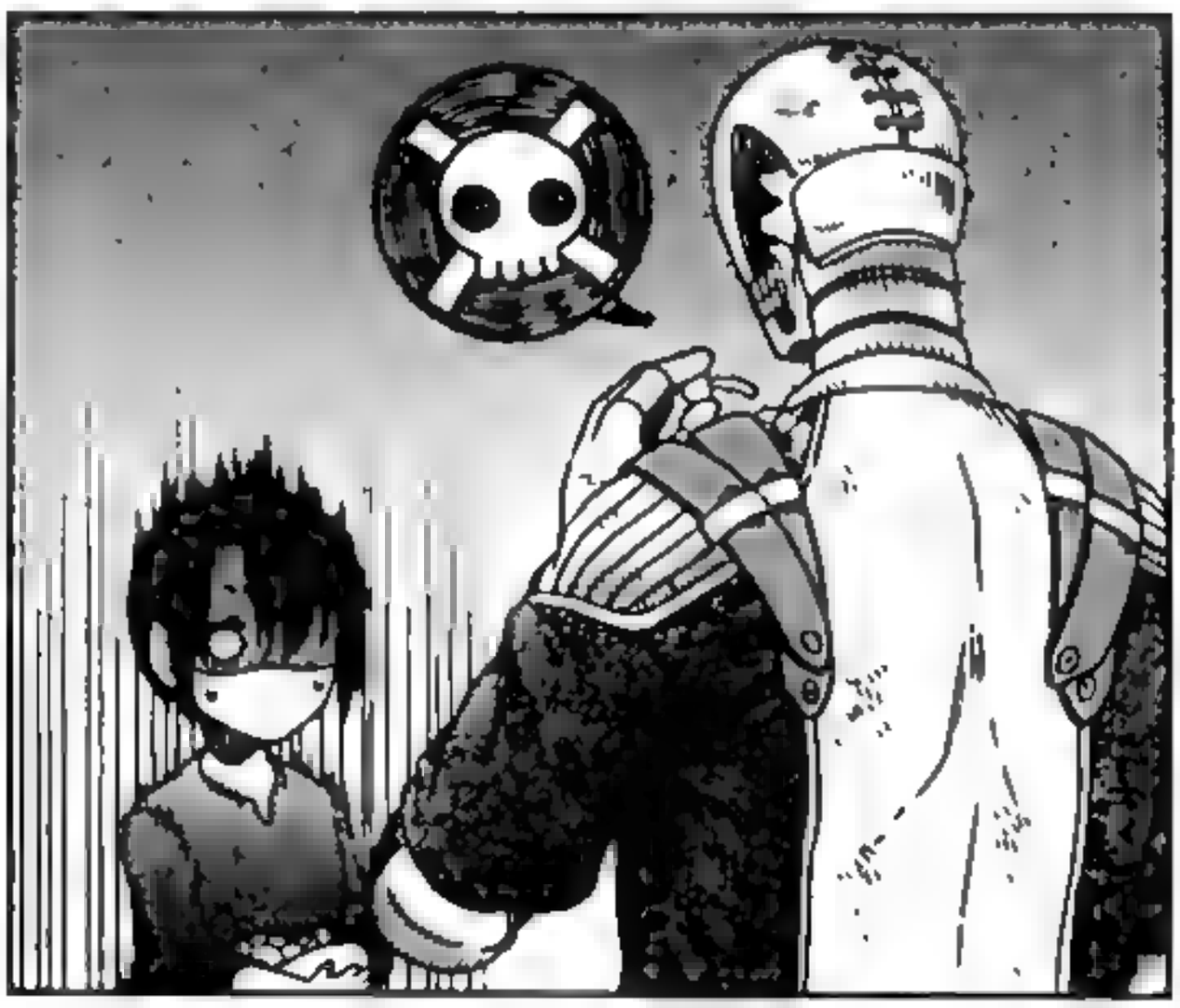
UNDER-
STOOD!

KEEP IN MIND, MY EYE ONLY REACHES AS FAR AS THE RIVER BANK.
HEY.
HEY.
I WANT TO PLAY TILL YOU'RE DONE.


WAH! WHAT'S THIS?!







THESE ARE LANTERN STONES. THEY ARE POISONOUS, BUT THEY GLOW AT NIGHT, SO YOU CAN USE THEM IN PLACE OF A TORCH.

THIS IS CURLED GRASS. IT'S NOT POISONOUS TO EAT.

IT SMELLS SWEET...!

INDEED. HONEY IS STORED IN THE STEM.

THAT'S A HONEY SAFE.

HAVE A SMELL.

WHAT'S THIS?

HAVE A DRINK.

AND LIKE THIS...

IT'S SO SWEET!

SO TASTY!

IF YOU SQUEEZE THEM YOU CAN GET HONEY.

!

...?

HUH?

A CRAB...

FOOD...

(IT'S A LOBSTER!)

...

HEY. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

ドドドドド

ドドドドド

ドドドドド

IS THAT SO?

MM?

I'VE SEEN SO MANY THINGS FOR THE FIRST TIME!

AREN'T YOU HAVING ANY FUN, FATHER?

I'VE NO THOUGHTS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

IT'S SO FUN!

MM...

HMPH.

GOLEMS ARE NOT PROVIDED WITH UNEEDED EMOTIONS.

OOOH!

ARE THOSE HORNED RABBITS?

YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG.

THEY WON'T COME LIKE THAT.

HEY! COME ON, COME ON.

OOH?

SAY, HORNED RABBIT...

IS THERE A TOWN AROUND HERE?

KYU

NONE EH, ANY SETTLE-MENTS AT ALL?

KYU

SO WARM!

SO CUTE!

I CAN.

YOU CAN?!

UNDER-STOOD, YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

YOU CAN TALK WITH ANIMALS FATHER?

...

I CAN UNDERSTAND BEASTS, AND HELP WATCH OVER THE FOREST.

IT'S AN ABILITY I HAVE AS A WATCHMAN.

THAT'S AMAZING.

...

COULD... COULD YOU TEACH ME A FEW WORDS...

NO, ENOUGH OF THAT.

...!

JUST QUIETLY WAIT.

...?

FATHER, WHAT...

?

AH?

...

PHEW.
SEEMS THEY'VE GONE.

I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU FIND SO AMUSING.

FUFU.
YOU WERE REALLY WORRIED.
FUHAHA.

IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE REALLY STIFF!

JUST NOW...

MY MAIN POINT, WAS THAT I HAVE NO UNEEDED EMOTIONS. I DON'T "WORRY".

YOU'RE WRONG!

I SEE THROUGH YOUR ACT!

...

YOU'RE RATHER AWKWARD, AREN'T YOU FATHER?

SUCH A REMARK COMES FROM A MISTAKEN POINT OF VIEW.

I AM NOT AWKWARD.

AHAHA, YOU ARE!

GOLEMS CAN'T BE AWKWARD.

YOU REALLY ARE AWKWARD!

WHY HAS IT COME TO THIS?

I AM NOT, DESPITE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

AHAHAHA.

YOU ARE!

AM NOT.

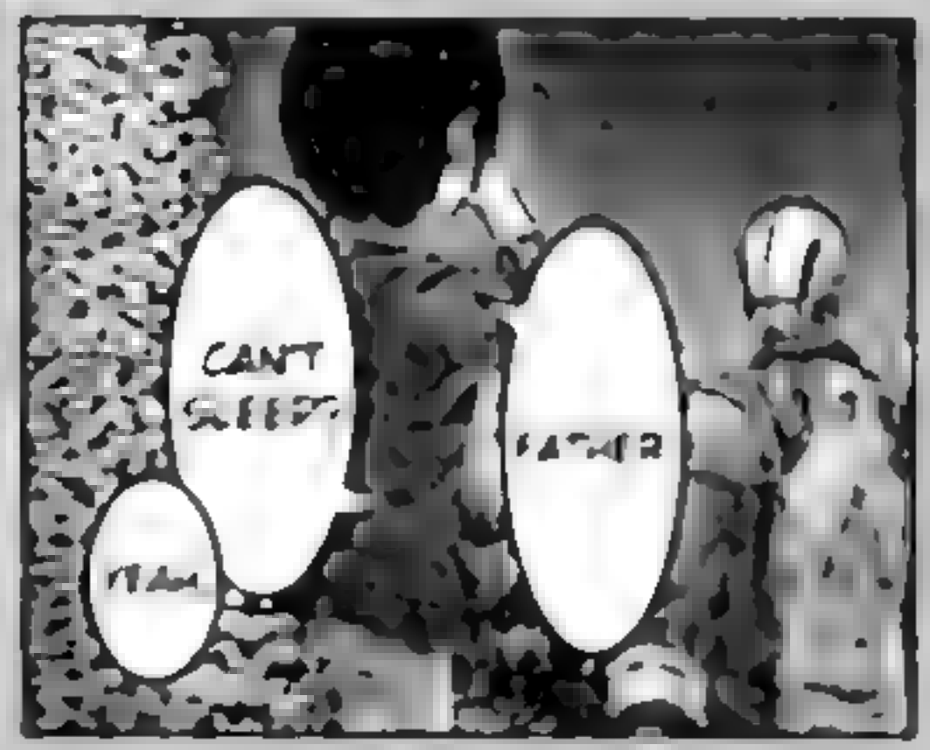
YOU ARE!

CHAPTER-2 - END

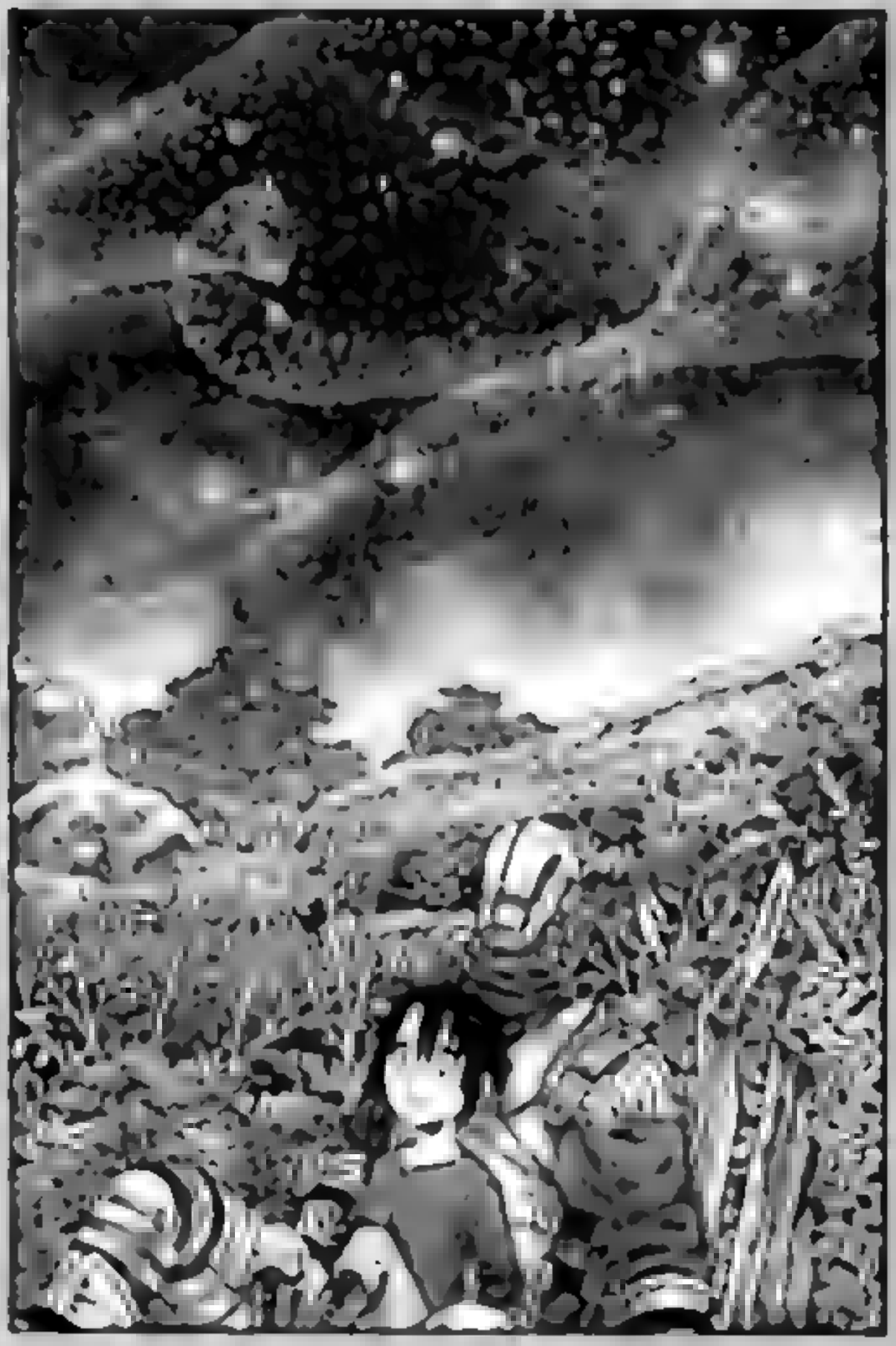
SIDE STORY

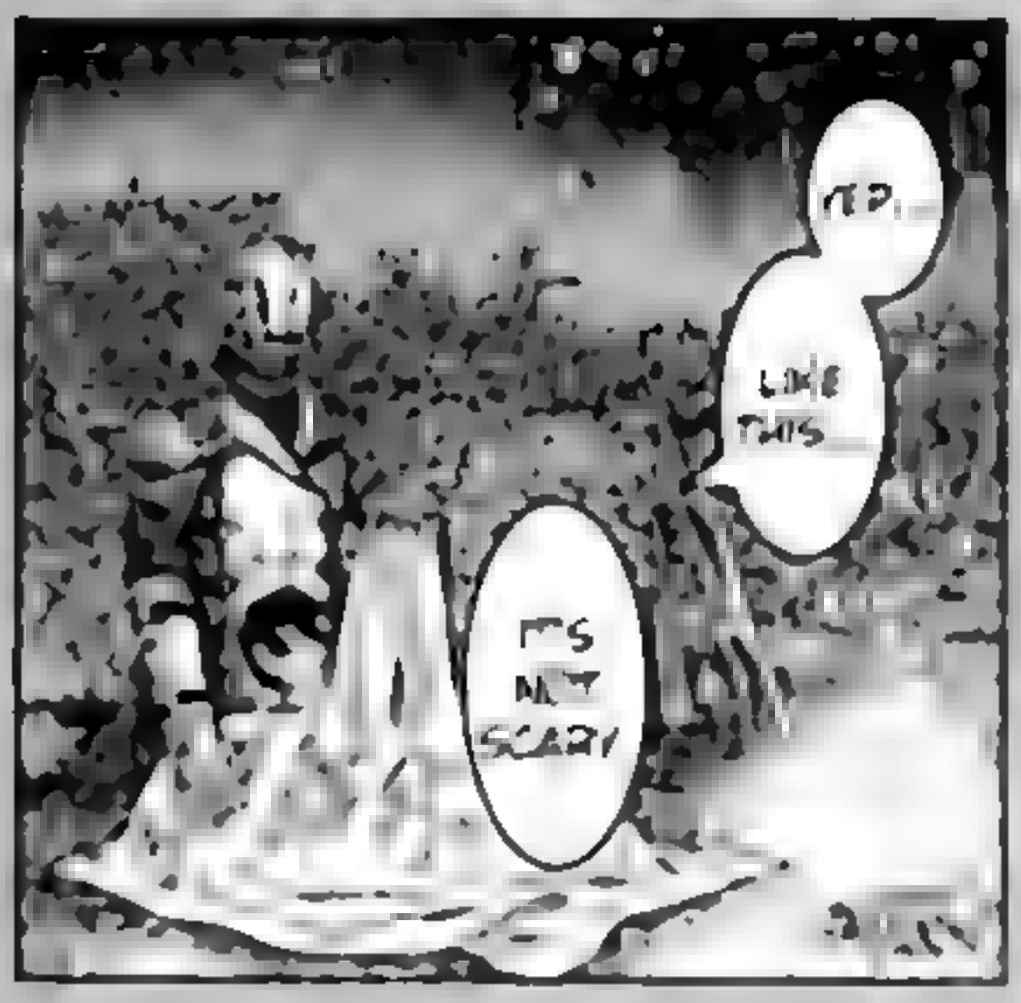
WHERE EXACTLY IS IT DARK?
EH?

THE "PITCH DARK" YOU SAY?
SLEEPING OUTSIDE IN THE PITCH DARK IS SCARY


CAN'T SLEEP?
MOM
FATHER

SEE
IT'S SO BRIGHT




IT'S
LIKE
THIS
IT'S NOT SCARY

Somali and the Forest Spirit

HERE YOU GO, MR. TRAVELLER.

OUR TRAVEL FUNDS ARE LOW.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WOULDN'T RATHER HAVE A NEWER MAP?

AN OLD BUT CHEAP MAP IS FINE.

THAT'LL BE 60 MANES.

THANK YOU.

CHAPTER 3: THE MAN OF THE FOREST (FIRST PART)

AAH...

GOT IT.

YOU'LL GET LOST ESPECIALLY QUICK IF YOU MISS THE LANDMARK.

WELL, TAKE CARE THEN MR. TRAVELLER.

THE ROAD CAN CHANGE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

WE HAVE WANDERED INTO "THE END OF THE FOREST".

A MAGNIFICENT SIGHT, AT WHICH ONE MAY LOSE THEIR WAY...

THE END OF THE FOREST?

SO...

THIS IS WHAT HE WAS REFERRING TO...

IT'S A PHENOMENA WHEREIN...

AT THE END OF THE FOREST, PLANTS LOSE ALL THEIR *COLOUR* AND WITHER.

THE TREE.

IT'S ALL GREY.

AND THE LEAVES ARE WHITE.

THE WATCH-MAN?

BUT...

IT IS DUE TO THE EXTINCTION OF THE FOREST WATCHMAN.

WHY DO THEY WITHER?

WITH THE WATCHMAN DEAD, THE FOREST WITHERS IN AN INSTANT.

FATHER, YOU'RE A WATCHMAN TOO.

...

WELL...

I'VE NO AWARENESS OF OTHER FORESTS.

THIS FOREST HAD ANOTHER WATCHMAN.

WERE THEY LIKE YOU, FATHER?

WHAT?

FATHER.

THERE'S SOME SORT OF INNER AREA HERE.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU DOING?

OH.

JUST TAKE A LITTLE LOOK.

WELL.

THAT STARTLED ME.

INDEED.

ばきっ

AAAAAH!

...

WHAT IS IT?

FATHER.

NONE OF YOUR PARTS ARE BROKEN, RIGHT?

?

AAH.

I'M NOT AN "OBJECT".

I'M ALL FINE!

GOOD.

YOU'RE NOT HURT, ARE YOU?

LET ME CORR-ECT THAT.

SO THERE SHOULD BE AN EXIT TOO.

GOT IT.

THERE IS A BREEZE HERE.

WE CAN GET A MOVE ON THEN.

WHAT IS ALL THIS...

IT'S HUGE!

THAT THERE BE THE REMAINS OF A WATCHMAN.

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THERE ARE PLANTS GROWING...

OH, WELL LOOKIE HERE...

THIS IS A SHOCK THOUGH.

I DIDN'T EXPECT ANY OTHER TRAVELLERS TO COME TO THIS FOREST.

!

ONCE IT WERE A WATCHMAN OF THE BEASTS.

NORMALLY I ONLY HAVE THE BIRDS AND INSECTS FOR GUESTS.

IT'S ALL A BIT DISORDERLY I'M AFRAID.

IT'S A SUITABLE ENOUGH PLACE TO STAY.

WELL...

HAVE YOU SETTLED DOWN WITHIN THE FOREST?

OH...

I MADE THEM.

THESE FURNI-SHINGS...

THERE WERE SOME THINGS WHICH I GOT WHILE ON MY TRAVELS TOO.

I AM A GOLEM AND THUS HAVE NO NAME.

THE TWO OF US WERE TRAVELLING BUT GOT LOST.

I'M SOMALI.

A GOLEM YOU SAY?

LET'S START AGAIN THEN... THE NAME'S ZEZE.

WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

WHY WOULD A GOLEM COME TO THIS PLACE?

I AM UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

I WILL NOT SAY.

IF I MAY ADD A LITTLE SOMETHING THEN...

GOLEMS ARE A RACE WHO PROTECT THE PURE DIGNITY OF THE FOREST.

THEY SPEND THEIR UNUSUALLY LONG LIVES ETERNALLY DOING SUCH.

CORR-ECT.

BUT WHY?

AREN'T GOLEMS A TYPE OF WATCHMAN?

TO BE ON THIS SORTA JOURNEY, RIGHT?

GIVEN THIS, YOU MUSTA HAD A MORE IMPORTANT DUTY YET...

I REFUSE, I AM UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ANSWER SUCH A QUESTION FROM YOU.

AGAIN...

I MUST ALSO SEEM VERY ODD TO YOU TWO.

INDEED.

THIS FOREST IS AN UNSUITABLE PLACE TO SETTLE.

WELL.

EVERYONE HAS THEIR REASONS.

YOU SEE I CAN'T SETTLE IN TOWN AS I HAVE A PROBLEM OF MY OWN.

THERE'S A SIMPLE ENOUGH REASON FOR IT.

A HUMAN...?

OH MY, WHAT'S SO SHOCKING?

...

LEMME SEE IT, LEMME SEE IT.

OH, SURE THING.

?

AFTER ALL...

THE LITTLE LADY IS ALSO A HUMAN, RIGHT?

I CAN CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND YOUR CAUTION.

SUCH A SCHEME...

...!

IT IS ONLY RECENTLY THAT I HAVE LEFT THE FOREST.

NO, I DO NOT.

DO YA KNOW "THE TALE OF THE BEGINNING"?

SAY...

WELL THEN.

A LONG TIME AGO...

THIS WAS BECAUSE, THE WORLD WAS A VAST PLACE.

AT THE TIME, HUMANS WERE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT HIDING.

HUMANS AND NON-HUMANS LIVED UNAWARE OF EACH OTHER...

THIS IS WHAT I HEARD BEFORE I CAME TO THE FOREST.

IT'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL YOU.

THE TALE OF WHEN THE WORLD WAS STILL AT PEACE.

A HUMAN TRAVELLER CAME ACROSS A NON-HUMAN VILLAGE.

THEN CAME THE MOMENT WHEN...

DEEPLY MOVED BY THIS, THE HUMAN TRAVELLER SPREAD TALK OF THEM ALL OVER THE LAND.

HOWEVER THE NON-HUMANS STILL GAVE THE HUMAN TRAVELLER A WARM WELCOME.

AT FIRST, HE WAS ASTONISHED BY THE APPEARANCE OF THE VILLAGERS.

AND THEY WERE SHOCKED BY HIS!

AND LIKE THAT, THE TWO RACES GRADUALLY BEGAN TO BECOME AWARE OF EACH OTHER.

"WHY IS IT THAT THEY ARE SO HARD TO PLEASE. THEY ARE OFTEN QUICK TO ANGER, AND ARE SO BOASTFUL AND PIGHEADED.

THEY'RE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, AREN'T THEY?"

AND ANO-THER SORT OF VOICE COULD BE HEARD TOO...

"WHY IS IT THAT THOSE THINGS HAVE SO MANY EYES, AND SCALES LIKE THOSE OF A SERPENT.

IT'S HIDEOUS, ISN'T IT?"

BUT OVER TIME...

A CERTAIN SORT OF VOICE BEGAN TO BE HEARD...

AND THE TWO RACES CAME TO BE AT WAR.

BEFORE LONG, SUCH VOICES HAD SPREAD OUT FAR AND WIDE....

SOON, "HUMAN HUNTS" WERE BROUGHT ABOUT, AND THE WORLD CHANGED.

THE SURVIVING HUMANS WERE CAPTURED, AND USED FOR THE SELFISH DESIRES OF THE NON-HUMANS.

HUMANITY LOST, IN AN INSTANT.

AND SO YOU HUMANS DECLINED.

THOUGH THAT WAS MERELY SOMETHING I HEARD ON MY TRAVELS.

SEEM-INGLY SO.

THOSE ARE VEGETABLES I RAISED MYSELF.

I'M PLEASED YOU LIKED THEM.

...

FATHER.

YOU'RE SO CARE-FREE.

FATHER, THIS IS TASTY!

THANK GOODNESS FOR THE LITTLE ONE.

HAHA.

ON TOP OF THAT I'VE THE DEAR OLD WOMAN'S CULVITATION SKILLS.

YOU RAISED THE CROPS HERE IN THE FOREST?

IT'S ACTUALLY A GREAT PLACE FOR THEM.

I DID INDEED.

YA SEE FALLEN LEAVES MAKE FOR GOOD NOURISH-MENT.

AAH.

YEP?

OLD WO-MAN?

I MEAN MY MOTHER.

I WANT TO MEET HER!

WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS YOUR MOTHER?

...

YOUR MOTHER EH...

SHE'S...

NOT HERE.

?

AAH.

NO.

THE OLD WOMAN IS...

ARE YOU LIVING APART?

WHY?

NO...

SO...

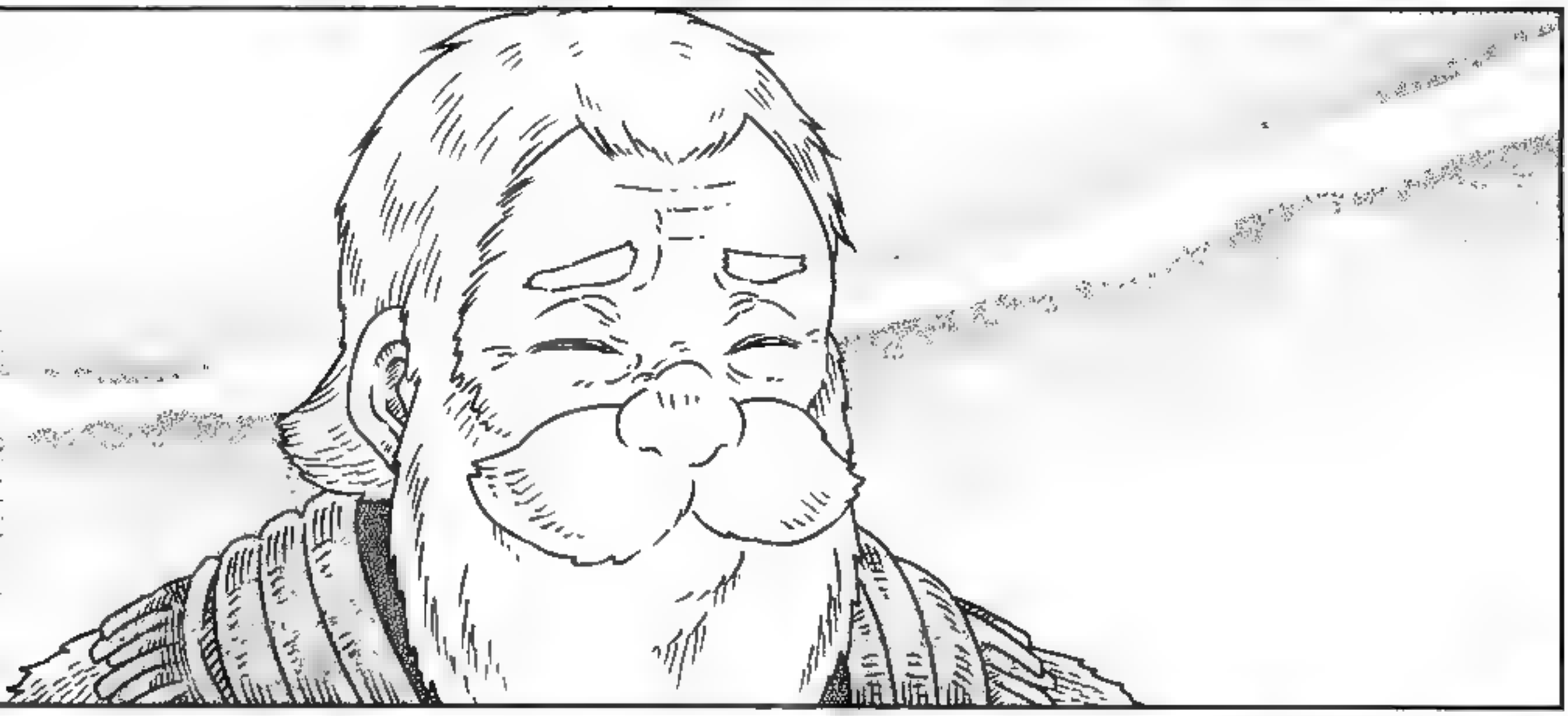
COULD WE GO MEET HER?

SHE'S WITH THE STARS NOW.

THE STARS?

ふぅ
mm.

WHY CAN'T WE GO?
WHY?
WELL YA SEE...



SHE'S...
ALREADY IN A PLACE TOO FAR AWAY TO REACH.
CHAPTER 3 - END

SIDE STORY

THIS IS HEAVEN.

AH...

WELL, YOU'RE HELPING ME, SO I SHOULD HELP YOU

WHAT'S THAT?

THE BATH'S STILL NOT QUITE DONE.

JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

HOW'S THE WATER TEMPERATURE?

OOOH?

GO LIKE THIS.

THEN WE...

THAT MUCH SHOULD BE FINE.

OH.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE FATHER?

...

ZEZE SHOWED ME THIS.

AH!

ARE THEY AN IMPORTANT FOOD FOR YOU?

THIS IS YUNOS FRUIT.

I PLANTED 'EM A WHILE AGO.

NOW AT LAST THEY'VE GIVEN FRUIT.

AND WERE UNRIPE, SO THEY WEREN'T EDIBLE.

THOSE ONES HAD BEEN BLOWN OFF BY THE WIND...

NOT SO MUCH.

...!

YOU'RE FAR TOO GLUTTON-OUS.

THEY LOOKED TASTY BUT...

HAHA.

UH...

ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?

EEEH!

Somali and the Forest Spirit

CHAPTER 4: THE MAN OF THE FOREST (LATTER PART)

LOOK AT THIS!

I'M FINALLY ABLE TO GATHER THE CROPS WITH NO ISSUES!

OH?

たたたた

I'M OFF TO SHOW MY MUM.

WEL-
COME
BACK.
AREN'T
YOU
RATHER
EARLY
TODAY?

MUM!
I'M HOME.

GOOD
HEAVENS.
I CAME TO
SHOW YOU
THESE.
LOOK!
YEP.

HEHE, GOOD EH!

THEY'RE ALL GREAT AREN'T THEY?

YOU CAN EASILY JUST PICK THEM UP LIKE THIS.

GOODNESS, YOU...

CAN'T EVEN USE A HOE, YET YOU'RE TALKING SO BIG.

DON'T GET COCKY NOW!

AH!

THAT HURTS...

I MIGHT'VE BEEN A LITTLE SELF-SATISFIED BUT...

DON'T PUT IT BACK UNTIL THE FIELD'S DONE, AND ONLY WHEN THE FIELD'S DONE.

ZAZA!

HOLD IT WITH AFFECTION!

HOW MANY TIMES DID SHE SCOLD ME?

TO USE A HOE YOU NEED MORE STRENGTH IN YOUR BACK!

MY OLD MUM WOULD COME AND WATCH ME WORK.

IT WAS AROUND THEN I BEGAN WORKING ON THE FARM.

BUT...

TIME AFTER TIME AFTER TIME I MESSED UP...

AT LAST, WITH THIS I'M A PROPER MAN.

I CAN LET MUM HAVE A PEACEFUL REST NOW.

YOU'RE STILL... SO STRICT.

BUT YOU'RE STILL A NOVICE!

FOR YOUR SAKE, I'VE STILL NO INTENTION OF TAKING ANY DAYS OFF!

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?

HUFF.

HUFF.

HUFF.

HEY...

HM?

HEY...

EVERY-ONE!

THERE'S A HUMAN HUNT IN THE NEXT VILLAGE OVER...

IT'S...

A DISA-STER!

WHAT'S UP, WHY THE RUSH?

FOR EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE?

STILL, WILL WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD...

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THIS VILLAGE IS FOUND.

WE SHOULD FORGET THE VILLAGE AND FLEE.

EVEN THOUGH WE'D FINALLY SORTED OUT THE FIELDS...

...

WAIT FOR ME AT THE TOP OF THE HILL.

AAH.

I'LL BE A BIT SLOWER TO COME.

EH?

BUT...

AH.

YEAH, I'M COMING NOW.

HEY, YOU COMING ZAZA?

YOU WON'T BE COMING TILL LATER?

YES YES.

WELL... MAKE YOUR WAY THERE SOON.

ZAZA.

LIVE ON, FOR MY PART AS WELL.

H...

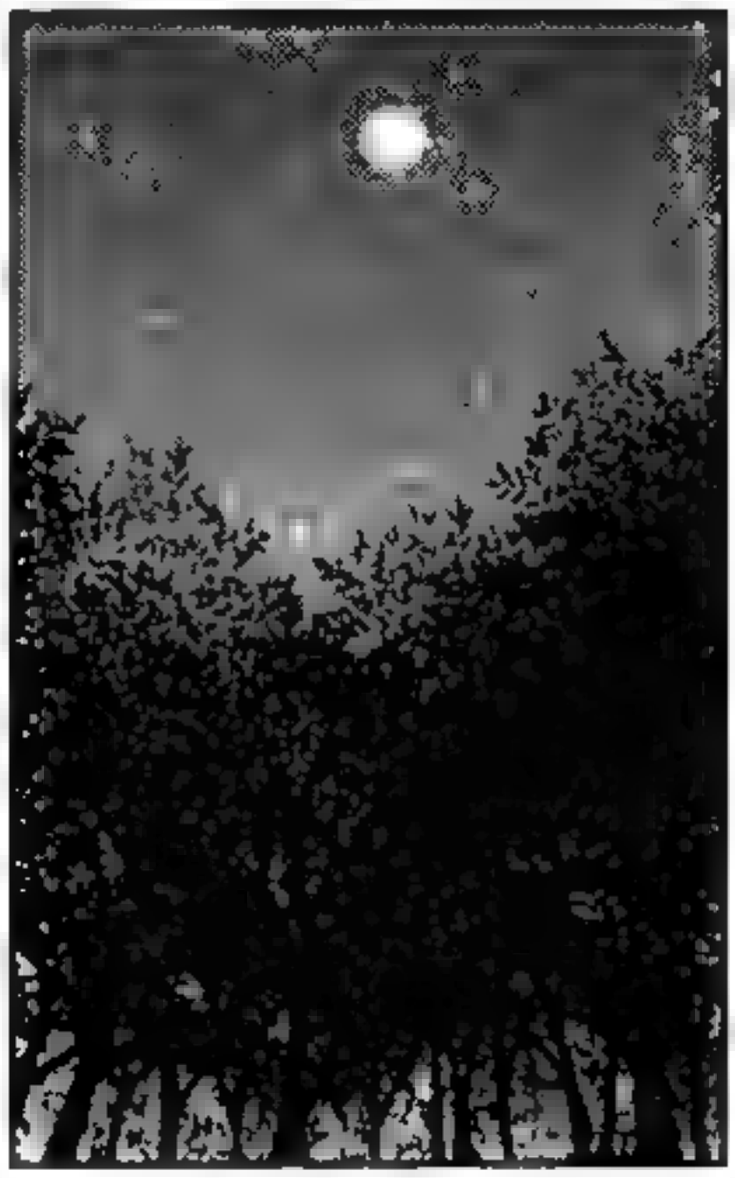
HEY, LOOK...!

THE VILLAGE IS BURNING...?!

CUT OFF LIKE THAT, I COULDN'T MEET UP WITH MY MUM.

I LATER WENT TO THE VILLAGE.

THE HUMAN HUNT HAD PASSED THROUGH.



SHE MUST HAVE FELT THAT SHE'D ONLY GET IN MY WAY WITH HER BAD FOOT...

...

IT SEEMS THAT, FROM THE OUTSET, MY DEAR OLD MUM HADN'T BEEN INTENDING TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.

IN MY BAGS THERE WAS FOOD FOR TWO PEOPLE.

OR SO I THINK.

...

AND SO I BECAME A TRAVELLER.

GIVEN THAT, WHY DID YOU COME TO THIS PLACE?

OF HAVING TO KEEP HIDING MYSELF.

I WAS TIRED YA SEE.

AFTER ALL, THE WORLD IS A CRUEL PLACE FOR HUMANS.

WHILE TRAVELLING I'D BEEN EXTREMELEY FORTUNATE.

UNTIL YOU DIE, YOU MUST SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE HIDING YOURSELF AWAY.

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, THEN THAT'S IT.

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR HUMANS.

YOU LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF DISCOVERY.

!!!

!!!

YOU ARE NEVER AT EASE.

ON TOP OF THAT, NON-HUMANS "AVOID COMING" HERE OFTEN.

FOR ME, THE END OF THE FOREST WAS A PARADISE.

SO I DECIDED TO SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE HERE.

THIS IS A PLEASANT PLACE.

...

WHAT LED A WATCHAMN TO LEAVE THE FOREST?

SO... MR. TRAVELLER

WHY ARE YOU TRAVELLING?

WASN'T THAT THING WE SAW IN THE FOREST A WATCHMAN?

YES. THE REMAINS OF A WATCHMAN BECOME A SEEDBED FOR A NEW FOREST.

ARE YOU AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BODY AFTER I DIE?

...

IF THE WATCHMAN IS NOT THERE, THE FOREST WILL TRULY END.

INDEED.

WELL...

I'LL ASK YOU ONCE MORE...

WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE FOREST?

AND WHAT'S YOUR RELATONSHIP WITH THE YOUNG LADY?

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMALI'S PARENTS.

...

WHEN FOUND...

I'LL LEAVE HER WITH THEM.

NOW THAT IS A SURPRISE.

TO TRAVEL WITH SOMEONE STILL SO YOUNG...

A GOLEM'S LIFESPAN...

THAT SAID...

MIGHTN'T IT BE RATHER EARLY FOR THAT?

THE CHILD IS STILL ONLY SIX OR SEVEN.

AH, IT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS.

AND AFTER EXACTLY A THOU-SAND IT ENDS.

I HEARD THAT THE BEAST WATCH-MEN HAD A DIFFERENT LENGTH.

...

MM?

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT IS?

I HAVE LIVED FOR 998 YEARS, 253 DAYS.

AFTER ONE YEAR AND 112 DAYS, MY LIFE WILL END.

I SEE.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU LEFT NOW.

...

AND YET...

YET WHAT?

HAHA.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

IT WOULD SEEM I'M INCAPABLE OF BEING A WATCHMAN.

SEEING THEM SO AT PEACE WHILE ASLEEP...

IT'S THANKS TO YOU.

I THINK YOU MEETING THIS CHILD WAS A GOOD THING.

IT MEANS TO LACK FEAR AND UNEASE.

THAT ONE'S HEART FEELS LIGHT AND... RELIEVED.

...?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

HM?

YA DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS?

WELL...

...

I...

THEIR HEART FEELS LIGHT?

THERE ARE COLLECTORS WHO WISH TO ACQUIRE US ALL.

AND THOSE WHO SEE US AS A DELICACY.

NON-HUMANS CONSIDER US TO BE BIZARRE.

I'LL BE HONEST WITH YOU.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN USELESS, BUT I HAD CONSIDERED TAKING CARE OF THE CHILD.

IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, THEN ALL YOU CAN HOPE FOR IS A DECENT DEATH.

I AM ALSO AT A LOSS.

I...

BUT...

IF IT'S YOU, THAT CHILD SHOULD BE FINE.

CAN WE OF DIFFERENT RACES REALLY COME TO AN UNDER-STANDING?

THE CHILD MAY FEEL WE MERELY BRING HARM.

GOLEMS ARE AFTER ALL A BREED OF NON-HUMAN.

EH...

TO PROTECT UNTILL THE "END"...

THAT MAY BE SO...

WHATEVER MAY BE THE CASE, I IMAGINE YOU FEEL BETTER HAVING GOT THAT OFF OF YOUR CHEST.

HAHAHA.

SO EVEN GOLEMS CAN HAVE FEELINGS.

YOU! WILL BE PERFECTLY ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT CHILD.

IS THIS PERHAPS THAT FEELING OF "RELIEF" WHICH YOU SPOKE OF?

YOU ARE ALREADY A MAGNIFICENT FATHER.

ARE WE OFF ALREADY?

WE...

SEMED TO BE LONELY...

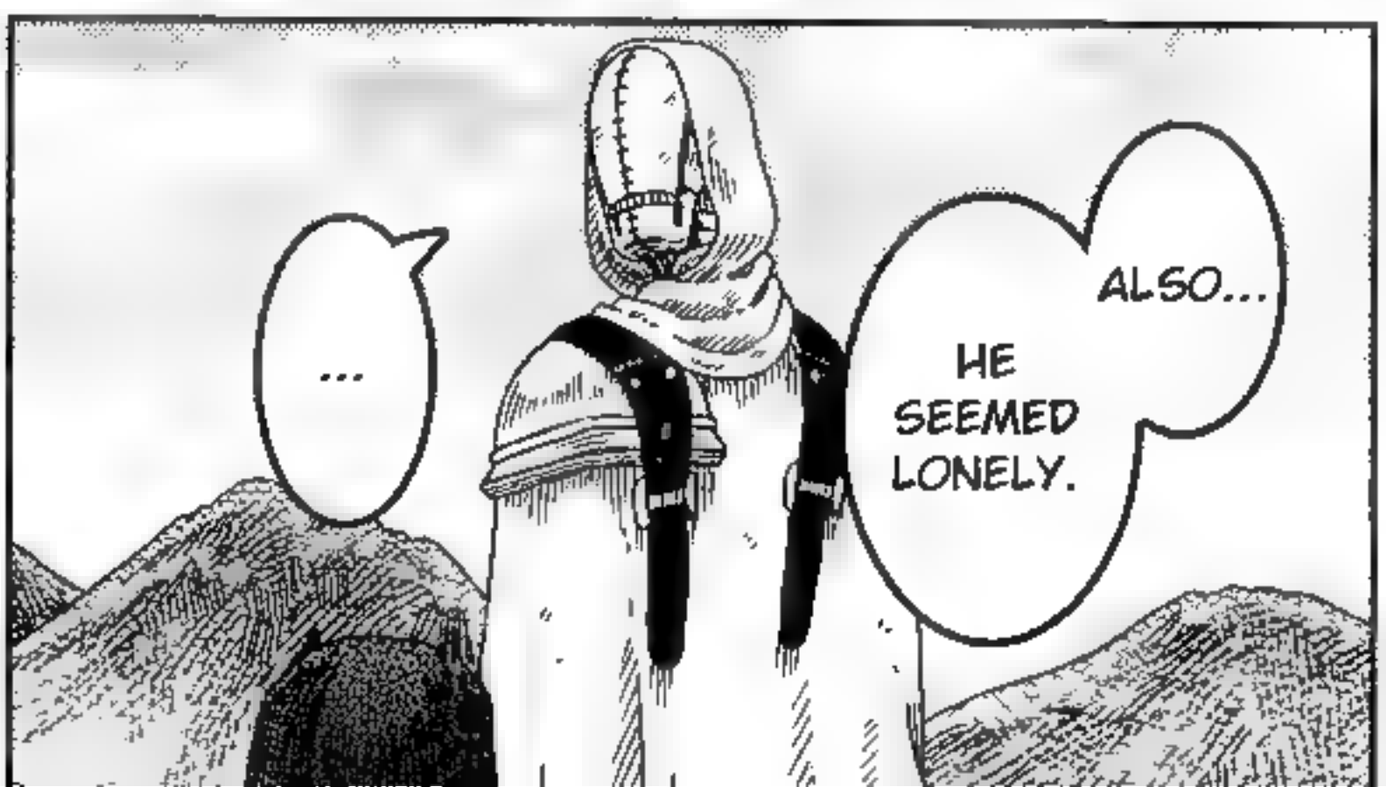
THAT MAN...

WHY?

CAN'T LET OURSELVES GET TOO USED TO THIS FOREST.

YEAH.

DID YOU LIKE THAT OLD MAN?



...

ALSO... HE SEEMED LONELY.

...!

THE VEGETATION WILL THICKEN AND PLANTS WILL BLOOM.

WHAT WILL THAT MEAN?

THAT FOREST WILL BE WARMER IN A SHORT WHILE.

SOMALI.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.

SPRING WILL COME.

AND IT'LL BE A BUSTLING PLACE.

CHAPTER 4 - END

SIDE STORY

YESTERDAY WAS... FUN.

THOSE TWO...

SHOULD HAVE SAFELY LEFT THE FOREST NOW.

AH.

IT'S A SHAME.

...

FROM TOMOR-ROW, I'LL BE ON MY OWN AGAIN.

THOUGH I MUST KEEP IT UP.

MUST BE THAT SEASON ALREADY

AH.

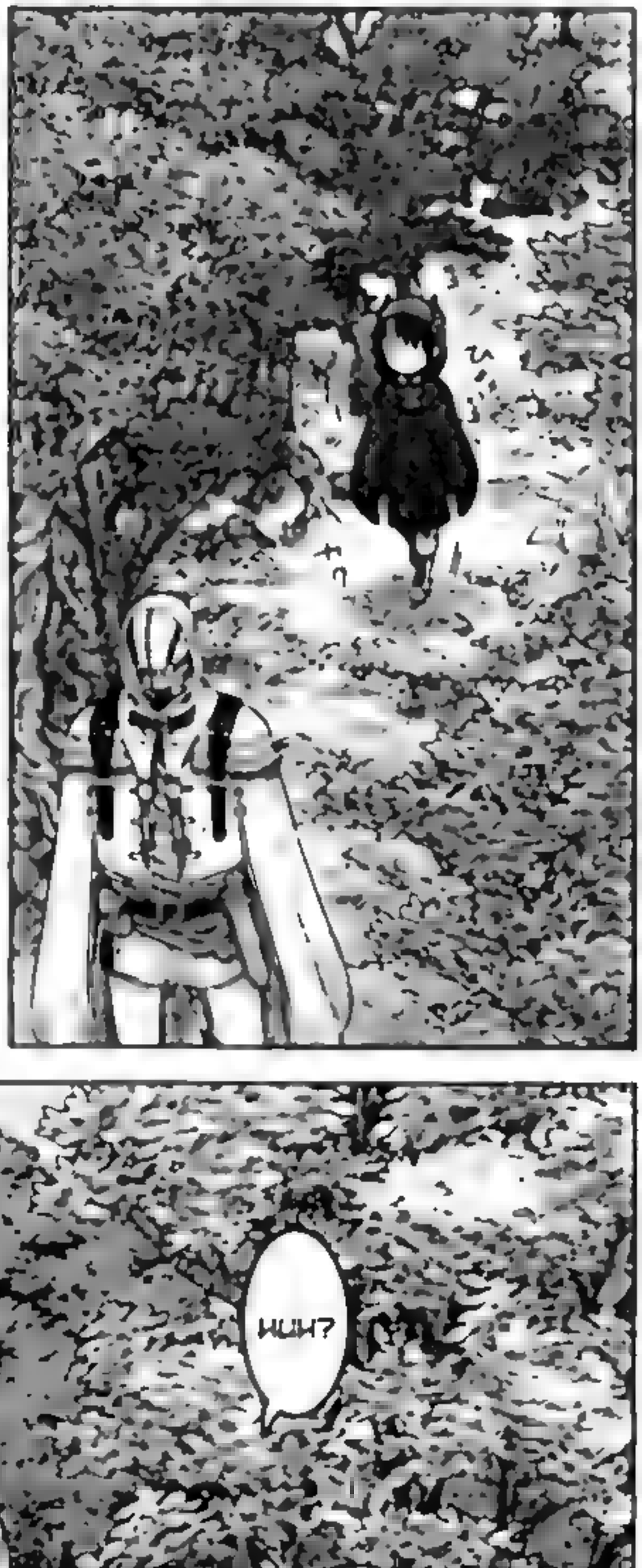
IT'S YOU GUYS

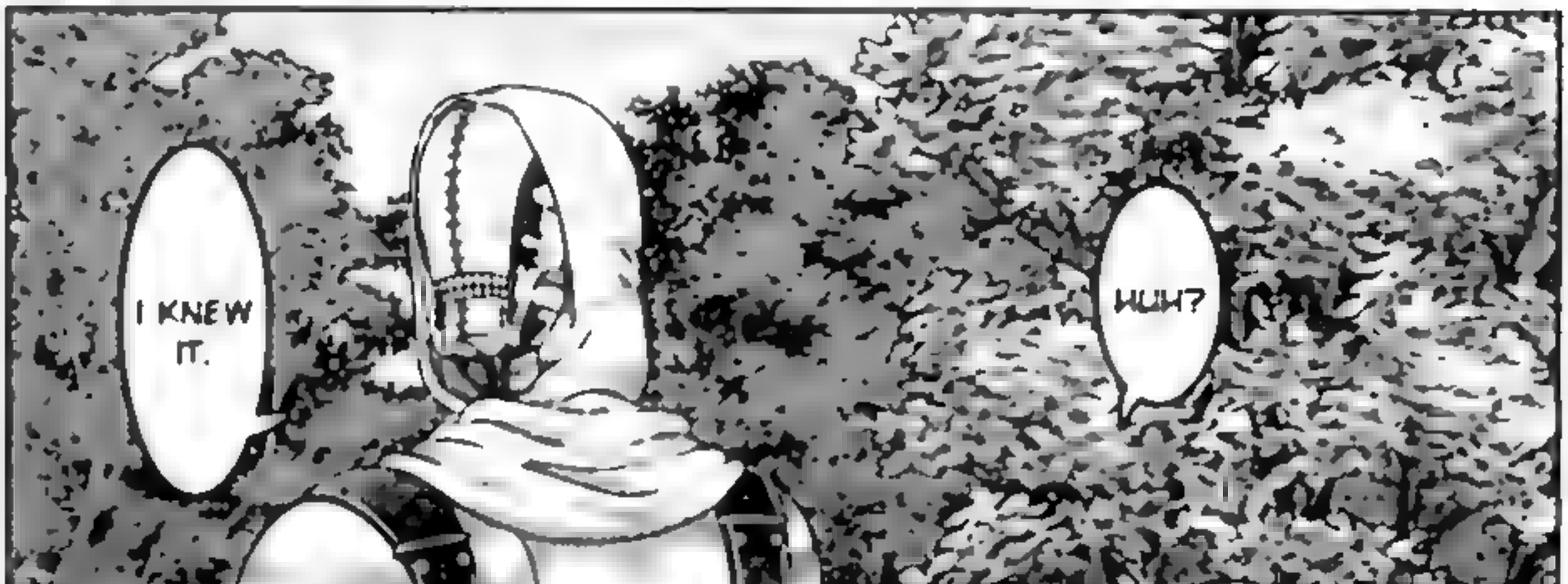
MM.

I GUESS I'M NOT ALONE NOW.

Somali and the Forest Spirit

CHAPTER 5: HERBS AND THE
...N'S DWELLING





YOU'VE HURT YOUR LEG, HAVEN'T YOU...

OH...?

I DIDN'T NOTICE A THING.

I IMAGINE YOU GRAZED YOUR LEG ON A ROCK OR A TREE TRUNK.

THE BLOOD'S FAIRLY DRY...

I'VE RUN OUT OF MEDICINE...

I SEE.

DOES IT HURT?

A LITTLE BIT...

ONE MO-MENT.

I'LL TREAT IT RIGHT WAY.

OKAY...

IT CAN'T BE HELP-ED.

THERE'S ONLY A LITTLE BIT TO GO TILL THE NEXT TOWN.

I'M SORRY SOMALI, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY LIKE THAT TILL WE GET THERE.

OH...

...

SO YOU WANT SOME MEDICINE FOR THE CHILD...

?!

AHAHAHA! WHAT A FUNNY RESPONSE.

SPOT ON.

I'M SHIZUNO, A DWARF ONI.

A FOREHEAD WITH HORNS, AND BLACK EYES...

YOU'RE SOME TYPE OF ONI?

THAT BODY...

?!

?!

EVEN WHEN ADULT, DWARF ONI ARE STILL SMALL.

I HEARD THAT, WHILE ONI ARE A GENERALLY STRONG SPECIES. DWARF ONI ARE FAIRLY WEAK, BUT QUITE INTELLIGENT.

THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT.

PRO-BABLY NOT.

A DWARF ONI... ARE THEY A KID?

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOUR-NEY.

A GOLEM ON A JOURNEY?

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE A GOLEM AREN'T YOU?

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

HMM.

WHY ARE YOU HERE SHIZUNO?

OOH.

A HERB-ALIST?

I'M GATHE-RING HERBS.

I'M A HERBALIST YOU SEE.

I SEE.

IT'S A PROFESSION WHERE YOU COMPOUND MEDICINE FROM HERBS AND OTHER NATURAL NATURAL ITEMS.

SORTA LIKE A DOCTOR I GUESS.

A FAVOUR?

SHI-ZUNO.

COULD I ASK A FAVOUR?

YOU'RE A GOLEM RIGHT?!

SO COULD YOU SHOW ME YOUR BODY?!

I'VE USED UP ALL OF MINE.

COULDN'T YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR MEDICINE?

BUT I'D NEED SOME-THING FOR IT.

BUT OF COURSE, IT'D BE FIIIINE.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT EH?

WHAT?

!?

HERE WE ARE.

THAT'S MY HOUSE.

NOOOW THEN.

I'M HOME...

ガチャ

I SEE.

COMING FROM TOWN TO GATHER HERBS WOULD CAUSE SOME HASSLE.

SO I LIVE IN THE FOREST.

IT'S QUITE NEAR TO TOWN, ISN'T IT?

?!

OOPS.

SPLAT

THIS IS... A FRUIT?

MY EYES, MY EYES...

WHY THE HELL DID YOU SKIP OUT ON CLEANING AGAIN?!

OI, SHIZUNO!

?!

YABA-SHIRA.

THE GUESTS.

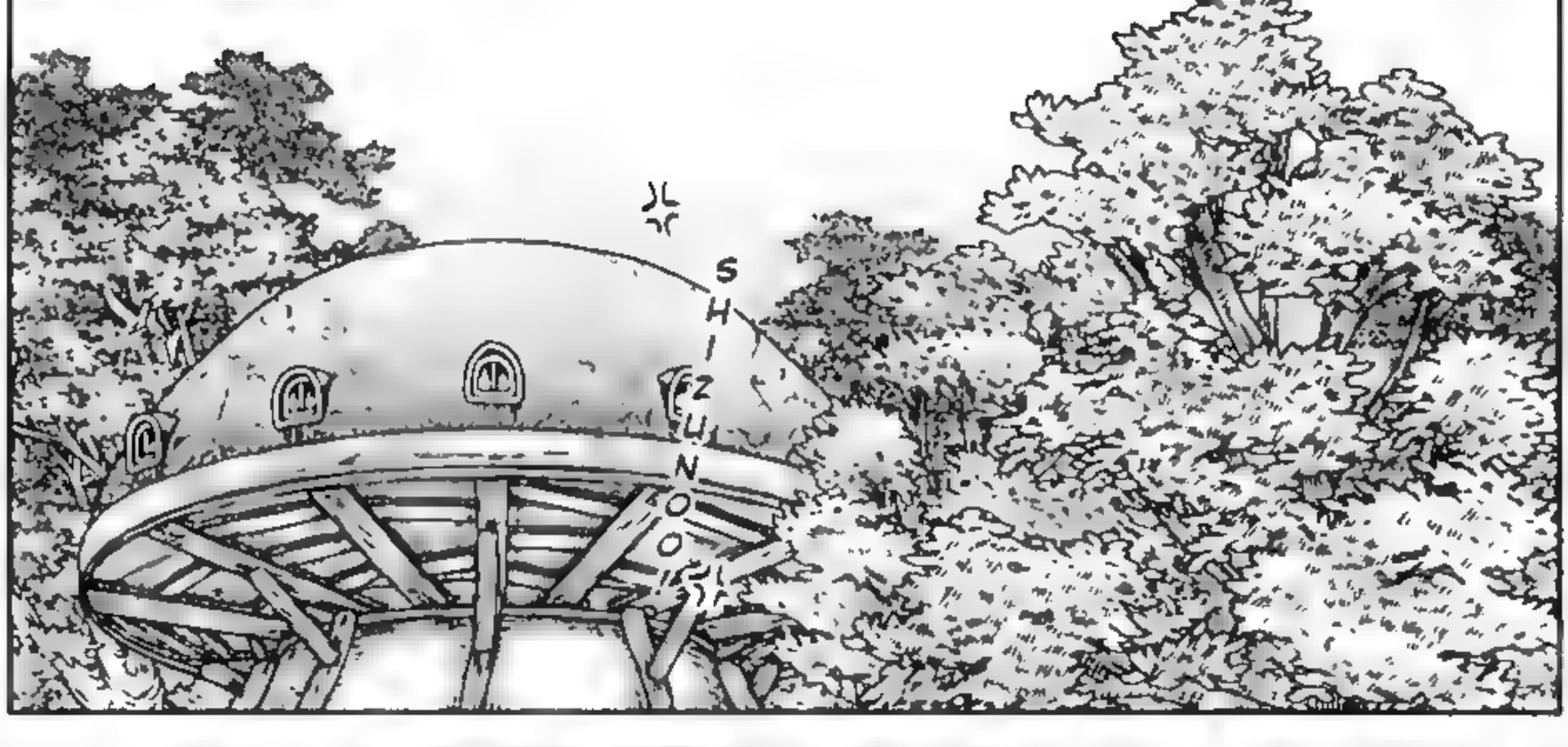
YABASHI-RA.

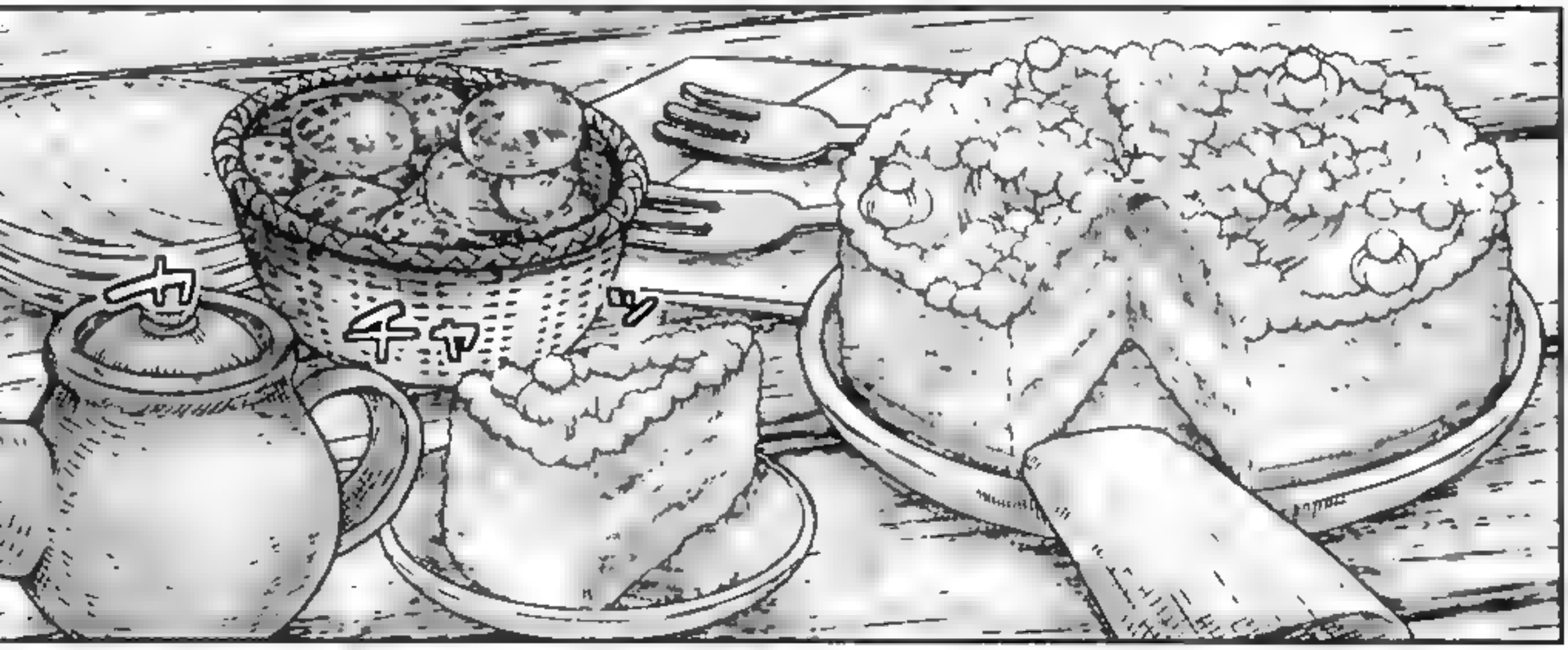
TODAY'S THE DAY I STOP ALLOWING THIS.

SO IT'S YABASHIRA TO BLAME...

FOR THROWING FRUIT AT THE GUESTS.

AH!


SHIZUNO



YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
OH...
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY A MISTAKE ON MY PART.

I AM SHIZUNO'S ASSISTANT, YABASHIRA.
I'M SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.

THIS IS THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO EAT.

OKAY, SURE THING.

IT'S FINE, KEEP EATING.

IT'S TASTY!

IT'S NOT SOME-THING WHICH REALLY SUITS ME IS IT?

ばり

DID YOU MAKE IT YABASHIRA?

HAHA... THANKS.

YOU'RE AMAZING, YABASHIRA.

YOU'RE A GENIUS!

HAVE A LOOK AROUND. SHIZUNO'S NOT DONE ANY TIDYING UP...

HE ESCAPED TODAY WITHOUT TIDYING AGAIN.

AAH, THAT...

BUT WHAT CAUSED YOUR ACTIONS EARLIER?

EACH TIME HE SCATTERS MEDICINES, MATERIALS AND OTHER THINGS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

I JUST SNAPPED FROM IT ALL.

THAT LOOKS TRUE...

DEALING WITH ALL THESE MEDICINES TAKES A LOT OF EFFORT THEN.

YES AN ASSISTANT, NOT YOUR MAID!

SO IT'S ALRIGHT LIKE THIS.

I'VE YABASHIRA AS AN ASSIS-TANT AFTER ALL...

AND I APPLIED THE OINTMENT, SO I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE FINE NOW.

IT'S NOT FESTERING.

OH IS IT.

YOU'RE IGNORING ME!

AH, GOLEM, THE TREATMENT IS DONE.

WELL...

GOOD.

IS THAT SO...

...

BUT OF COURSE.

IT'S WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM MY HOME-MADE OINTMENT.

IT'S GREAT.

IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL!

FATHER...

I'D LIKE YOU TO TEACH ME HOW TO MAKE MEDICINE.

SHI-ZUNO.

MM?

IT'D BE USEFUL IF I COULD MAKE USE OF WILD HERBS LIKE YOU.

I'D LIKE TO AVOID ANOTHER INCIDENT LIKE TODAY, WHERE WE RUN OUT OF MEDICINE.

BUT, IN EXCHANGE...

I'VE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

YOU'RE A GREAT HELP.

A PART OF... MY BODY?

I'D LIKE A PART OF YOUR BODY.

AH?!

YES.

FOR USE AS AN INGRE-DIANT.

SOMETHING LIKE YOUR EYE, OR SOME OF YOUR OUTER LAYER.

IT WAS JUST A PART OF MY BODY RIGHT...?

EH...?

IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE TALKING REALLY GRIMLY!

OW! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

...

YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG! I WAS MAKING A JOKE JUST NOW...

GOLEMS CAN'T FEEL PAIN AFTER ALL.

IT'S NO ISSUE.

HEY... DIDN'T THAT HURT...?

HERE.

EH...?

AH, YES...

WELL THEN.

I SEE IT OFTEN, IT'S A WEED.

DO YOU KNOW OF HYPERICUM ERECTUM?

I PRESENT MY MEDICAL LABORATORY.

AND CAN BE USED AS A SALVE.

IF IN A SUNNY SPOT IT BLOOMS WONDER-FULLY.

LET'S BEGIN!

SO WHERE POSSIBLE AVOID IRON AND COPPER.

ENAMEL IS GOOD THOUGH.

MM... IT CAN BE BAD FOR THE COMPOSITION AND AFFINITY OF THE HERBS...

YOU MUST FIRST WASH IT...

THEN CUT IT AS FINELY AS YOU CAN.

IS IT OKAY IF THE POT IS IRON?

FOR EVERY 10-20 GRAMS YOU SHOULD ADD 0.3 LITRES OF WATER.

THEN BOIL IN A POT FOR 30 MINUTES.

FOR A COLD YOU NEED PUERARIA MIRIFICA.

WHILE THE LIQUID IS WARM, APPLY IT TO THE AFFECTED PART.

IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE NO TIME, CRUSH SOME FRESH LEAVES AND APPLY THE JUICE.

YOU CAN FIND IT IN SUNNY PLACES.

IT'S ROOT CAN BE USED AS A MEDICINE.

IS IT FAULTY?

I DON'T THINK SO.

AH?

ONCE WASHED, PEEL THE ROOTS.

I'VE NOT DONE MUCH LIKE IT TILL NOW...

NO...

YOU'RE QUITE BAD AT SUCH DELICATE WORK...

IT'S FINE.

I'LL DO IT.

OH!

...

AND YOU'LL END UP WITH DRIED ROOT LIKE THIS...

ONCE PEELED YOU DICE THE ROOT.

IT'LL DRY IN THE SUN-LIGHT...

IT'S FINE LIKE THIS, TOTALLY FINE.

I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS THE CAUSE OF YABASHIRA'S TROUBLES.

FOR EVERY 10 GRAMS YOU NEED TO BOIL 300 CUBIC CENTI-METRES OF WATER.

AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE SLOPPY?

LEAVE IT TO COOL.

ONCE FINISHED BOILING...

SAY...

WHAT IS IT?

...

THE FRAG-MENT YOU GAVE.

YOU DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO TEAR IT OFF, DID YOU...?

YOU SAID THIS WAS THE MOST EFFICENT METHOD.

IT IS BUT...

WHY HAS IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS?

WEREN'T WE JUST GOING TO MAKE MEDICINE?

...

HASN'T EVEN MORE OF IT TORN OFF...?

YOUR BOOTS AND YOUR VEST...

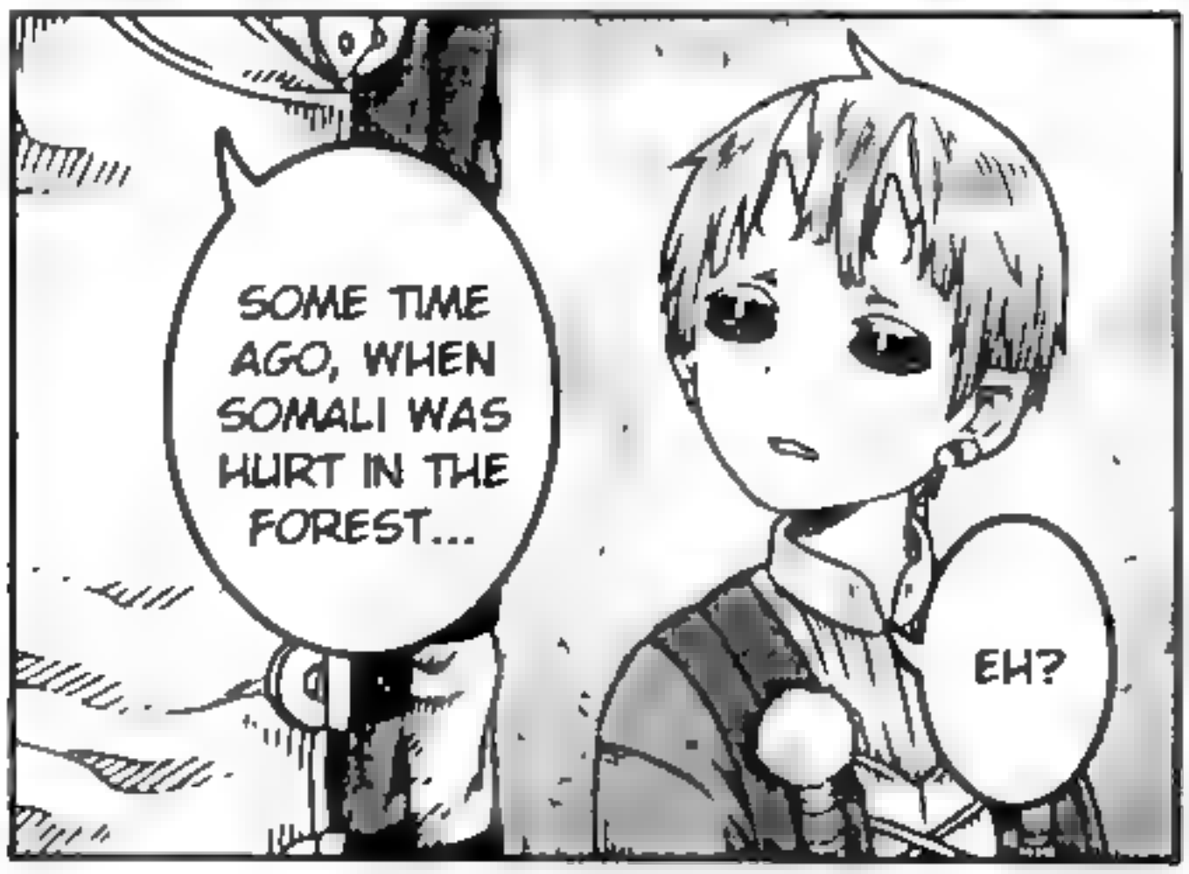
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

THE CLOTH ON YOUR ARM...

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE A JOKE.

WHEN I SAID A BIT OF YOUR BODY...

SOMALI WAS MAKING THE SAME FACE.



AND I FELT ILL AT EASE.

SEEING THAT FACIAL EXPRES-SION...

MY THOUGHTS WERE DISR-UPTED.

I FELT LIKE I DID NOT WISH TO SEE HER WITH SUCH A FACE.

WHAT'S WITH THAT LAUGH?

BUFU-KUKUKU.

HENCE I PAID YOUR FEE...

MY APLOGIES FOR BELIEVING YOU.

"FU"...?

FU...

I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

ぽ°

ぽ°

ぽ°

YOU DIDN'T WANT FOR HER TO CRY.

YOUR HEART WAS PAINED BY IT.

I SEE NOW.

YOU'RE QUITE KIND AFTER ALL.

NYUFUFU.

THAT'S...

FUFU

A NICE JOKE.

YOU'RE MISTAKING THAT FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

DID YOU RETURN THE FRAGMENT IN THE END?

I DIDN'T.

MM. YEAH.

WELL...

THOSE TWO MADE FOR AN INTERESTING PAIR.

OR SO THEY SAID.

IT'S NOT NECESSARY, SO THERE'S NO ISSUE ME DISPOSING OF IT.

YOU CAN HAVE IT.

AHAHA, NOT AT ALL.

DID YOU DISPOSE OF IT?

IT CAN BE A MEMENTO.

WE MET A MOST INTERESTING GOLEM.

NFUFU.

IT'D BE NICE TO MEET THEM AGAIN.

SIDE STORY

FU?!

!!

I'VE GOT THE TEA CAKES HERE.

...

SHIZU-NO.

FUFUFUFU.

OI, SHIZU-NO.

I'VE GOT THE TEA CAKES.

WITH THINGS LIKE THE TAIL OF A LIZARD.

A LIZ-ARD?

IT'S A FOREIGN MEDI-CINE.

SIT WHILE EATING!

SO, WHAT'RE YOU MAKING?

ARE YOU EAT-ING?

YES I'LL HAVE SOME.

HEY THAT HURTS.

BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE LET'S WIPE YOUR MOUTH.

MM.

I'M MORE A NANNY THAN AN ASSIS-TANT/

※ ASSIS-TANT.

EH.

NOT REALLY.

AND WITH THAT, BACK TO MIXING.

WILL YOU NEED ANY HELP?

Somali and the Forest Spirit

CHAPTER SIX: THE WITCHES' VILLAGE

SORRY, BUT I'VE NOT SEEN A THING.
INDEED. DO YOU KNOW ANY-THING?
IF YOU'RE AFTER SOME-THING...
I SEE.
WHAT FOR?
WITCH-ES?
IT'S THE MOST SUITABLE PLACE FOR TRYING TO FIND THINGS.

IF ANY SORT OF CLUES EXIST, YOU'LL FIND THEM THERE

WELL, IT WAS SAID WE SHOULD GO ON THROUGH

STRANGE COMMUNITY.

IT'S A FAIRLY...

LOOK FATHER...!

FIRSTLY, WE SHOULD FIND OUT ABOUT...

WATER'S SPILLING OUT!

HOW ODD.

ALL SORTS OF FAIRIES ARE GATHERING.

WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME FRESHLY MADE WICCA WINE?

GOOD DAY.

NOT AT ALL.

WICCA WINE IS MADE WITH THE POWER OF WITCHES AND FAIRIES.

WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN MAKE IT.

NO THA...

WICCA WINE?

T/N: WICCA HERE HAS THE KANJI FOR "WITCH".

ISN'T IT THE SAME AS NORMAL WINE?

WICCA WINE...

IS A TYPE OF WINE MADE BY WITCHES.

YES!

SCALES?

THEY INCREASE THE RATE OF FERMENTA-TION.

WINE NORMALLY HAS A FERMEN-TATION PERIOD.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

WICCA WINE IS UNIQUE IN THAT, WITH THE ADDITION OF FAIRY SCALES, IT CAN BE READY IN A VERY SHORT PERIOD.

WITH BERRY BUSHES, THE TASTE OF THE BERRIES MIXES.

IF ROSES ARE PRESENT THEY HAVE A ROSE LIKE FRAG-RANCE...

WITH TREES A FRESH, VERDANT SMELL.

AS WHEN OUR SCALES "RETURN HOME" THE FRAGRANCE CHANGES.

HUH?

WHEN ENOUGH SCALES ARE MIXED IN, THE PROCESS IS COMPLETE.

ONCE STRAINED WITH A CLOTH, THE WINE IS PERFECT.

WITCHES CAN CALL FORTH FAIRIES BY USING THEIR MAGIC TO AFFECT THE TONE OF THEIR SINGING WHILE THEY DANCE.

AS FAIRIES ADORE BEAUTIFUL SINGING VOICES AND TONE.

NOW NOW, WOULD YOU CARE FOR A TASTE YOURSELF?

OH!

I'VE REAL CONFIDENCE IN TODAY'S WORK.

THE TASTE IS A BLEND OF CITRUS AND BERRIES.

WHILE THE FRAGRANCE WHICH IT GIVES OFF RESEMBLES A NUMBER OF FLOWERS.

スー

ラッ

...!

WE'VE ALL SORTS OF SAMPLES FOR YOU.

HUH?!

IF THAT'S SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY OVER HERE?

HAVE A SMELL FATHER.

I'LL PASS ON SUCH A DELICATE ITEM.

HOW ABOUT ROSE BERRY JAM?

IT'S AN EXQUISITE ITEM MADE FROM A BERRY WITH THE FRAGRANCE OF A ROSE.

TIRED OF SIMPLY HAVING SWEET THINGS?

WHY NOT TRY SOME HERB INFUSED SAUSAGE?

HAVE SOME PICKLES TOO!

WE'VE COLOURED VEGETABLES WITH MAGIC.

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TRY THIS.

AND THIS.

HAVE THIS.

HEY.

WE'VE NO INTENTION OF BUYING ANYTHING.

NO-ONE'S LISTENING.

THEIR FACE IS SO CUTE WHEN EATING, THEY'RE LIKE A SQUIRREL!

IT WAS WORTH THE WORK.

IT SEEMS THERE ARE MANY WITCHES WHO STRIVE TO MAKE THINGS.

IS THAT YOUR JOB?

...?

A LIVELI-HOOD?

WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THIS?

IT'S NOT REALLY A JOB.

UUM... HOW CAN I SAY THIS...?

THAT'S JUST FINE.

COME WITH US PLEASE.

WE CAME TO LOOK INTO A CERTAIN MATTER.

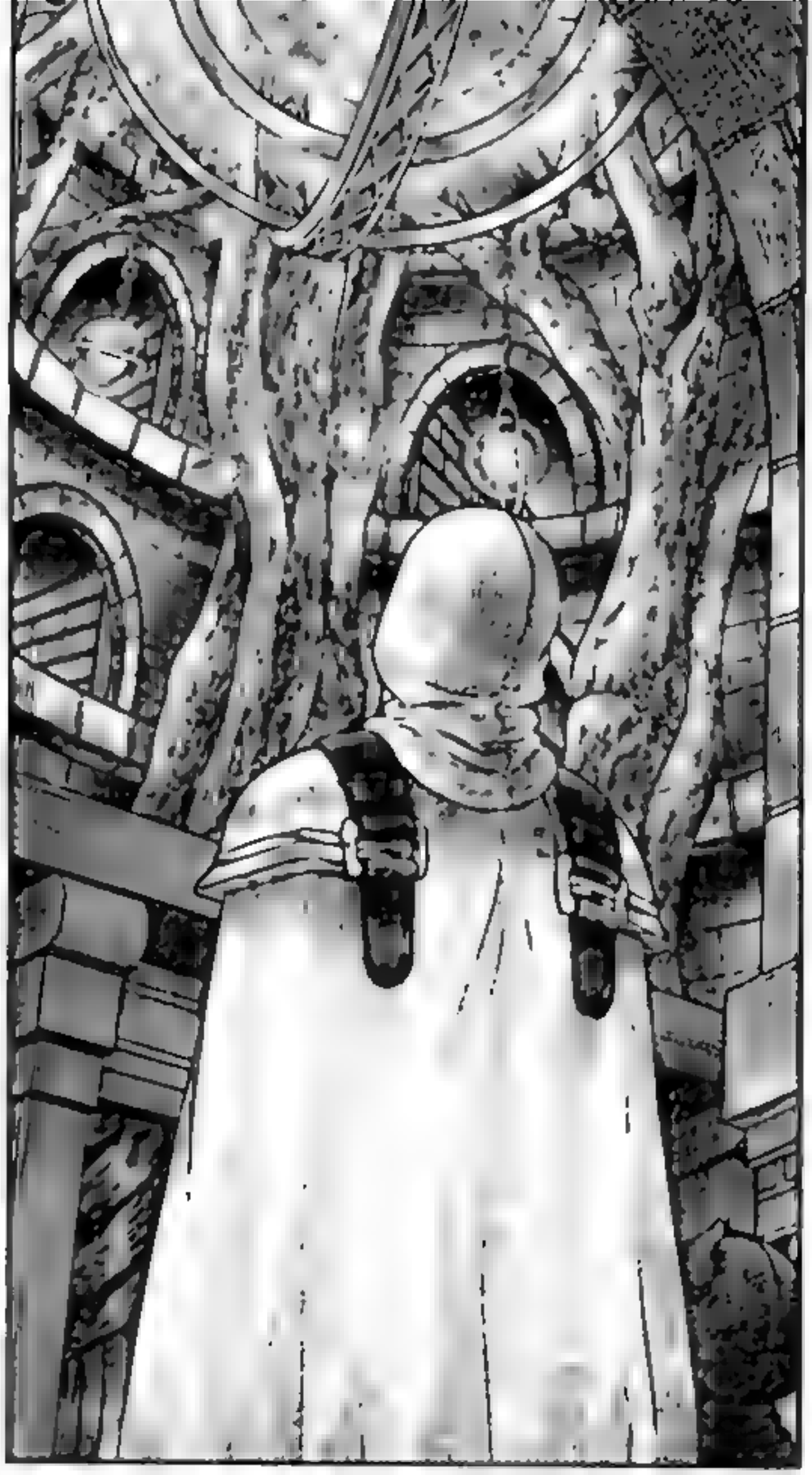
HOW ABOUT YOU MR. TRAVELLER, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

AH!

WE'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE WORK WE WITCHES DO.

THIS IS THE WORK PLACE FOR US WITCHES.
THE WITCHES' SEAL LIBRARY.

WHICH SHELF DID THE BOOK GO ON?
THE HEART OF A...



I'LL SHOW YOU THERE NOW.

THAT'S THE ONE.
ERM.

THERE'S A LOT OF TRAVEL-LERS HERE.
THERE'S LOADS OF BOOKS TOO!

THE TWO TRAVELLERS HERE TODAY ARE MR. GOLEM, AND MISS SOMALI.

THIS IS HAZEL, SHE'S A LIBRARIAN HERE.

WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO SHOW THESE TWO AROUND HAZEL?

OF COURSE THAT'S FINE.

COULD YOU TELL THEM ABOUT THE WORK WITCHES DO, AND THE LIBRARY.

YES?

HAZEL.

DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

MY APOLOGIES.

NOW THEN... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE MR. GOLEM?

SURE.

WE'LL BRING YOU SOME APPLE PIE LATER AS THANKS.

APOLOGIES, BUT WE'RE NOT GOOD WITH SUCH THINGS...

YES.

A BIO-GRAPHY?

FOR NOW I'LL SHOW YOU TO WHERE IT IS.

SOME CLUES EH...

IF THAT'S THE CASE WE DO HAVE ONE COPY REMAINING OF A HUMAN'S BIOGRAPHY.

WE WERE TOLD THAT BY COMING HERE TO SEE YOU WE MIGHT FIND SOME CLUES.

WE'RE TRAVELLING IN SEARCH OF HUMANS.

YOU CAN SEE ALL MANNER OF THINGS FROM EACH NATION HERE.

IN THIS PLACE EVERY SINGLE BOOK FROM AROUND THE WORLD IS STORED.

SO JUST...

WHAT SORT OF INSTITUTE IS THIS?

THAT'S BECAUSE WITCHES HOLD A GREAT RESPECT FOR HISTORY.

WHY ARE THEY ALL HERE?

BUT...

THAT THE GODS MADE EVERYTHING, FROM THE LAND TO THE ANIMALS. AND SO WE PAY THANKS TO THEM.

SO AS NOT TO FORGET THAT MIRACLE

WE'VE GATHERED BOOKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD SINCE ANCIENT TMES.

WITCHES HAVE A BELIEF ABOUT THE WORLD.

SUCH IS THE GREAT TASK WHICH HAS ALL BEEN PASSED DOWN TO US WITCHES SINCE ANCIENT TMES

YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S LIKE NATURAL INSTINCT FOR US SO WE HAVE NO NEED FOR ANY SORT OF PAYMENT OR THE LIKE

SOME HAVE THE DUTY OF LEAVING THE VILLAGE AND GATHERING BOOKS

WE THEN SELL THESE GOODS TO NEARBY TOWNS AND VILLAGES. THAT'S WHAT WE CALL OUR LIVELIHOOD

WE ALL THEN TAKE THIS KNOWLEDGE WHICH WE HAVE AND USE IT TO MAKE THE JAMS, MEDICINES AND OTHER GOODS WHICH YOU SAW.

WHILE SOME ARE LEFT TO TRY AND MANAGED ALL OF THE BOOKS WHICH HAVE BEEN GATHERED

FUFU.

EVERYONE TENDS TO SAY THAT.

THAT'S ALL SO SMART.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU SAID YOUR WORK WAS DIFFERENT TO YOUR LIVELI-HOOD.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND THE BOOK IN THIS AREA.

NOW THEN.

THAT'S ODD. I'M SURE THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THIS THIS SHELF...

HUH?

ERM.

ERM.

IT'S NOT THERE?

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

ほぁー…

SO IT'S LOST?

THERE'S NO RECORD OF IT BEING BOR-ROWED.

…

NO.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WHICH COULD HAVE HAPPENED.

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO READ ANYWHERE WITHIN THE LIBRARY...
BUT REMOVING A BOOK IS A SERIOUS OFFENSE.

IT'S PROHIBITED TO REMOVE BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY.

SO HOW HAVE YOU LOST TRACK OF THE THEN?
THUS IT'S NOT LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN LOST.

IF A BOOK IS TAKEN OUT, THEN A MAGICAL WARNING ALARM SOUNDS.
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'VE ANY SORT OF PROTECTION HERE?

THEY'RE TROUBLE-SOME PEOPLE WHO TAKE BOOKS OUT OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.

SO... YOU'RE SAYING THAT THEY MAY HAVE THE BOOK WE'RE AFTER?

IT'S EMBA-RASSING TO SAY BUT...

SOMETIMES, OUR LIBRARY HAS CERTAIN "BOOK-WORMS" EMERGE.

WORMS?

OH.

I DARE SAY IT MIGHT BE HERE.

YES.

OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT TENDS TO HAPPEN.

PLEASE STEP BACK.

GOOD-NESS'

ONCE AGAIN YOU'VE SHUT YOUR-SELF AWAY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

THE DUST...

ガチャ

HUH?

PRALINE!

I WILL CERTAINLY NOT ALLOW IT TODAY!

もぐ
もぐ

IT'S YOU HAZEL.

GULP

WHAT'S UP?

OH?

WE CAME FOR A BOOK...

AH!

MY TART!

HM?

YOU SAY SUCH STERN THINGS.

...

DON'T GIVE ME THAT!

ABOVE ALL IT'S PROHIBITED TO EAT HERE!

WHY ARE YOU EATING IT?!

IT WAS TASTY.

PRALINE STOP...

WOAH.

PRA-LINE.

SO HARD.

SO BIG.

ドスッ

PRALINE!

ドカ

ドカ

OOOOOH! YOU'RE A GOLEM AREN'T YOU?!

WHAT'S THAT?!

I'M SORRY FOR HER IMPO-LITENESS...

NOT AT ALL.

I SAID STOP THIS!

SHE'S THE "BOOK-WORM" I MENTIONED BEFORE...

IS SHE A LIBRARIAN TOO?

ビクッ

!?

カバッ

!!

OW?!

HM?
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU ALL HERE ANYWAY?

どんっ

KYA.

HAZEL'S MY DEAR ELDER SISTER.

WHAT'S WITH THE COLD TONE...

YES. IT'S TRULY A SHAME.

YOU'RE SISTERS?

YES, THERE'S NOT MANY LEFT.

IS IT NOW?

THAT'S A REALLY OBSCURE THING TO BE AFTER ISN'T IT?

EH?

WE'RE AFTER A BOOK RELATING TO HUMANS.

IT SHOULD BE HALLEIN'S LIFE STORY.

WHAT'S THE TITLE?

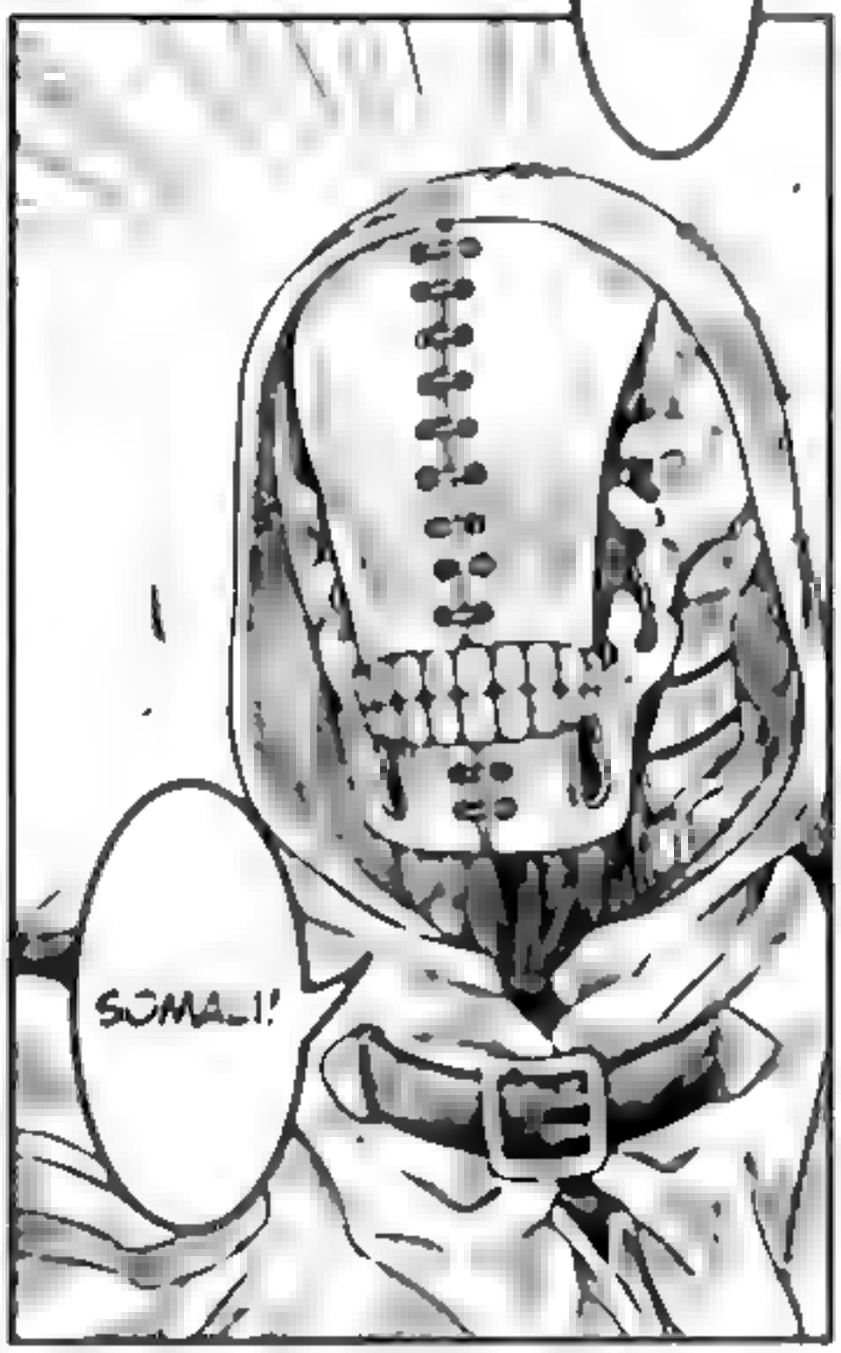
ERM, LET'S SEE...

REALLY?

I FOUND IT FATHER.

I'LL JUST GET IT...

..!


SOMA..!!

WHAT IS IT?
?

WAH?!

THEY'RE THE ENEMIES OF US WITCHES.

WHAT ARE THOSE?

WATCH OUT!

OOH.

THE FIRE VERMIN WHICH EAT BOOKS

*IN IN THIS INSTANCE "UTSUTSU" MEANS SOMETHING SIMILAR TO "EMPTY"

OMORI FISH

CHAPTER 6 - END

SIDE STORY

GOOD-NESS.

PRA-LINE!

PRALINE IT'S MOR-NING.

YOU DON'T NOTICE A THING.

ゴゴゴ

MMM.

ゴゴゴ

どんっ

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR BREAK-FAST...

もぐもぐ

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR BREAK-FAST...

NO WAY... SEEMS I'VE PUT ON WEIGHT AGAIN...

UH...

GOT IT.

I'M OFF.

OKAY THEN.

AS ALWAYS I'LL DO MY BEST!

WELL BRING IT ON!

TODAY'S FOR-TUNE...

CALAMITY AT WORK.

「ソマリと森の神様」①巻をお手にとって
いただきありがとうございます。
念願のファンタジー作品を描けることが
できてとても嬉しく思います。

作品づくりを指導していただいた
担当H氏、編集部の皆様、
6話から目かっ人いただいた
アシスタントM氏、その他たくさんの
方々に心より感謝いたします。

ここまでお付き合いくださり
ありがとうございました。
また次巻でお会いしましょう。

暮石ヤコ

発売中

オススメ話題作続々!!

ゼノンコミックス

アルテ 大久保圭

16世紀フィレンツェ。箱庭お嬢様の奮闘記――。

1〜4巻

各定価：本体580円＋税／B6判

画家になるため家を飛び出し、ひとりで生きて行くことを決意したアルテに様々な困難が待ち受ける。

ZENON COMICS

怪シキ処ニ薬売リ――。

雨夜の晩、旅館を訪れた、子を身籠る女。彼女が通された開かずの客室には、赤子の声が響いていた――。

モノノ怪 座敷童子

作画 蜷川ヤエコ

原作 ～モノノ怪～ 製作委員会 アニメ「座敷童子」より

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魂魂ハラスメント 他

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